

Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund Indigenous Grants Applicant Guide



2025 call for proposals

About this Applicant Guide

This Applicant Guide provides guidance to support the development of applications for CMIF Indigenous Grants funding. The Guide includes three main sections:

- **Section 1: Eligibility** outlines the basic requirements your initiative must meet to be eligible for CMIF Indigenous Grants funding and provides examples of eligible initiatives that could be funded
- **Section 2: Application Process** provides details about how to submit your application, including the documentation that is required at submission, as well as an overview of the assessment process and the criteria NRCan will use to select initiatives for funding
- **Section 3: Application Form Guidance** provides tips and examples to support you as you complete each section of the Application Form

Prospective applicants are also encouraged to review information about this funding opportunity contained on the [CMIF Indigenous Grants web page](#) prior to developing an application. Please send an email to cmif_ig-sa_fimc@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca if you have any questions.



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Section 1: Eligibility

This section outlines the basic requirements your initiative must meet to be eligible for CMIF Indigenous Grants funding and provides examples of eligible initiatives that could be funded. Below is a tool to help you determine whether your application is eligible.

CMIF Indigenous Grants – Eligibility check

Is your initiative eligible for the CMIF Indigenous Grants?

- 1. Organization:** Are you part of an Indigenous organization, or a non-Indigenous organization legally incorporated or registered in Canada that is working on behalf of an Indigenous partner?
- 2. Critical minerals:** Is your initiative associated with a critical minerals mining project where one of the 34 minerals on [Canada's critical minerals list](#) is expected to comprise **at least 50% of the total mineral production by volume**?

Aluminum	Fluorspar	Lithium	Platinum group metals	Tellurium
Antimony	Gallium	Magnesium	Potash	Tin
Bismuth	Germanium	Manganese	Rare earth elements	Titanium
Cesium	Graphite	Molybdenum	Scandium	Tungsten
Chromium	Helium	Nickel	Silicon metal	Uranium
Cobalt	High-purity iron ore	Niobium	Tantalum	Vanadium
Copper	Indium	Phosphorus		Zinc

- 3. Infrastructure:** Is your initiative associated with an **eligible clean energy and/or transportation infrastructure project** that will enable increased critical minerals production, as specified on the [CMIF web page](#)?
 - **Clean energy infrastructure projects**, under the program, are those that drive environmental performance while supporting increased critical minerals production by enabling access to existing electrical grids or integrating a renewable energy source.
 - **Transportation infrastructure projects**, under the program, are those that directly enable the development or expansion of critical minerals resources, including roads, rail, and marine transportation infrastructure necessary to connect the mine to the midstream segments of value chains (e.g., to processing facilities or to transportation systems that allow access to global markets).
- 4. Your initiative's activities:** Does your initiative involve **engagement, capacity building, and/or knowledge gathering or sharing** activities, as outlined below?
 - **Engagement** activities may include:
 - attending/hosting relevant meetings, dialogues, or conferences
 - attending/hosting Indigenous ceremonies
 - providing input for impact/environmental assessments or accommodation measures

- **Capacity building** activities may include:
 - completing/designing education and training (e.g., dialogues with experts, practical courses)
 - hiring consultants or staff (who will undertake CMIF Grants funded activities)
- **Knowledge gathering/sharing** activities may include:
 - producing reports, studies, or other written documents
 - undertaking other knowledge gathering/sharing activities (e.g., integrating traditional knowledge)

If you answered **yes** to the above questions, your initiative is **eligible** for the CMIF Indigenous Grants!

Application examples

Example	Critical Minerals Production	Clean Energy and/or Transportation Infrastructure Project	Eligible Activities
1	Nickel mining project in the design stage (i.e., not yet under construction or in production)	Engineering studies to advance the development of an access road to support planned future mining activities	Funding for a First Nation regional council to conduct an environmental impact study to help inform the feasibility of road development
2	Copper (75% critical mineral) and gold (25% non-critical mineral) mining project in the pre-development stage (i.e., finalizing necessary approvals and agreements)	Advancing a power purchase agreement for the sale of clean energy from an Inuit-owned solar farm to support imminent mining activities	Funding for an Inuit economic development corporation to hire consultants to execute legal incorporation of a partnership and negotiate a power purchase agreement with a critical minerals mining proponent
3	Lithium mining project about to start construction	Development of access road and transmission line infrastructure to support the mining activities	Funding for a Métis community to conduct community engagements to determine how they may wish to participate in the project

Section 2: Application Process

This section provides details about how to submit your application, including the documentation that is required at submission, as well as an overview of the assessment process and the criteria NRCan will use to select initiatives for funding.



Step 1: Application submission

Along with the completed Application Form, you must provide the following information:

- quotes/estimates from companies that will provide goods or services for the initiative (e.g., consultants, legal services, facilitators, researchers)
- information to confirm other sources of funding contributing to the initiative, as applicable
- incorporation documentation, as applicable, and recent financial statements:
 - ▶ Indigenous communities recognized under the *Indian Act* may **indicate they are an *Indian Act* Band and are not required to provide incorporation documents** (but documentation will be required if you are an economic development corporation)
 - ▶ **should audited financial statements not be available, unaudited financial statements will be accepted**
- a letter of support from the leadership of an Indigenous partner organization, if you are applying as a non-Indigenous organization

During the submission process, you may also be asked to provide:

- additional information about the related mining project and its enabling infrastructure
- letters of support from partners whose collaboration is required to deliver the initiative

Completed applications can be submitted via email, to cmif_ig-sa_fimc@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca.

Please send an email to cmif_ig-sa_fimc@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca if you have any questions.

Step 2: Application assessment

Applications will first be screened for completeness and **eligibility**. Eligible applications will then be prioritized based on criteria that consider the strength of the application, as well as the context and the status of the associated critical minerals and infrastructure development. **Indigenous support for the development of critical minerals or associated infrastructure projects is not a requirement for funding.**

Applications will be prioritized for funding based on the following **assessment criteria**:

- **the activities outlined in the application have the potential to generate significant benefits for Indigenous Peoples**, as defined by the Indigenous group(s) associated with the application (e.g., the activities outlined in the application will lead to immediate and lasting benefits or mitigate impacts to a community or multiple communities)
- **the critical minerals and/or infrastructure development have the potential for significant positive or adverse impacts on:**
 - **Indigenous Peoples**, as described by the Indigenous group(s) associated with the application (e.g., adverse impacts on cultural livelihoods, the creation of training and employment opportunities)
 - **the environment**, as identified by the Indigenous group(s) associated with the application (e.g., impacts to key species that are central to subsistence hunting practices), and/or other sources (e.g., development is proposed in an ecologically sensitive area)
- **the status of the critical minerals and/or infrastructure development** (e.g., an Indigenous group is seeking funding to engage on a project that will be entering the construction phase imminently would be prioritized due to the urgency for funding support)
- **the distribution of funding among Indigenous groups across Canada** (i.e., the promotion of a balanced distribution of program funding across regions and groups)

The following **due diligence criteria** will also be applied:

- proposed activities align with the proposed initiative and are quantifiable and measurable
- proposed activities are feasible (organizational capacity, relevant experience, timelines)
- proposed expenditures are eligible, reasonable, and required to meet initiative objectives
- risks and associated mitigation strategies are appropriately identified
- the proposed recipient is in good standing with NRCan
- a risk assessment of the applicant organization and initiative determined the risks are low

Step 3: Funding approval

The CMIF Indigenous Grants team will notify you if your application is selected for funding. When funding is approved, you will be asked to provide a **Recipient Registration and Direct Deposit form**, with banking information (e.g., void cheque), to facilitate the electronic transfer of payments (as cheques cannot be issued).

Section 3: Application Form Guidance

This section provides guidance and examples to support you as you complete each section of the Application Form.

Guidance is in yellow text boxes.

Examples are in blue text boxes.

General applicant information

At the top of your Application Form (p. 1), you will need to provide:

- the legal name of the applicant organization
- the name of the signatory and their role in the organization
- the organization's contact information, including the full mailing address, telephone number, and email address

Applicant organization (Questions 1 to 3)

1. Select your organization type.

- An applicant must either be an Indigenous organization, or a non-Indigenous organization legally incorporated or registered in Canada that is working on behalf of an Indigenous partner.
- Indigenous for-profit and non-profit organizations will need to provide evidence that 51% or greater of their organization is owned by Indigenous Peoples.
- Canadian non-profit organizations will need to provide evidence of being registered in Canada.
 - ▶ Documentation for both incorporation/registration and ownership could be sent along with the application, but if documentation is not available, information could be provided in a separate appendix document.

2. If you are applying on behalf of an Indigenous partner, please provide the name of the Indigenous organization you are working with.

- If this is applicable to your application, please provide the name of the Indigenous organization you are working with and include a letter of support from the leadership of that Indigenous organization confirming you / your organization is working on their behalf. If you are applying as an Indigenous organization, please skip to [Question 3](#).

3. The Indigenous organization(s) linked to this application is(are)... (select all that apply).

- Please select which Indigenous distinction(s) (i.e., First Nations, Inuit, Métis) is(are) linked to your application.

Northern or remote designation (Questions 4 to 5)

4. Is the Indigenous organization linked to this application associated with a community or multiple communities located in a remote or northern area?
- ▶ If "yes", select all that apply under [Question 5](#).
 - ▶ If "no", skip to [Question 6](#).

- Whether an applicant or the Indigenous organization/group they represent is located in a northern or remote location will determine the maximum funding amount they are eligible to receive.

Location of applicant or Indigenous partner organization	Maximum funding per organization
Northern or remote areas	\$200,000
Non-northern or non-remote areas	\$150,000

5. Is the Indigenous organization linked to this application associated with a community or communities with any of the northern and remote characteristics outlined below (select all that apply)?

- If you answered "yes" under [Question 4](#), select any northern or remote characteristics that apply.
- You may also choose to specify alternative reasons for why the community/communities may be considered northern or remote by adding information in the text box.

Critical minerals infrastructure and mining project (Questions 6 to 8)

Your initiative must support Indigenous engagement or participation related to the potential development or deployment of an eligible infrastructure project that will enable critical minerals production at specific critical minerals mining site(s) in Canada. A list of Canada's active critical minerals mines and advanced projects can be found on the [NRCan interactive map](#). Please note that critical minerals mining projects not appearing on this map may still be eligible if they meet all requirements.

6. Name and describe **at least one eligible critical minerals infrastructure project** associated with this application, the type of clean energy or transportation infrastructure (e.g., solar, wind, access road), and its stage of development (i.e., in design stage or being implemented).

- The infrastructure project may be **in the design stage** (e.g., pre-feasibility and impact-related studies) or may already be **in the implementation phase** (e.g., engagement for regulatory processes or negotiating agreements).
- Figure 1 highlights some examples of eligible infrastructure projects.
- Additional information about eligible infrastructure projects can be found in [Annex A](#).

Critical minerals infrastructure projects may include:



Battery storage systems



On-site renewable & alternative energy generation projects



Grid connection and transmission infrastructure



Electric vehicle charging stations for mining equipment



Mine access infrastructure (road, rail, marine)

Figure 1: Example infrastructure projects

Example responses:

"This initiative relates to a new proposed access road for the XYZ Mining Company's [Mine or Project Name]. The access road route has not yet been determined as it is still in the early design stage."

or

"This initiative relates to a new transmission line to power the XYZ Mining Company's [Mine or Project Name]. The transmission line is ready for development as all the necessary regulatory and permitting approvals have been obtained."

7. Identify at least one critical minerals mining project that will be enabled by the infrastructure project named under [Question 6](#). Please indicate, to the best of your knowledge:
- the name of the mining project and location
 - the company(ies) advancing the mining project(s)
 - the mineral(s) that is(are) expected to be produced
 - information about any recent developments related to the deposit (e.g., completed technical reports)

- As a general guideline, a critical minerals mining project is one where [critical minerals](#) are expected to include at least 50% of the mine's production by volume.
- The 50% critical minerals production requirement could be verified by a technical report such as a mineral reserve estimate, pre-feasibility study or feasibility study. If none are available, a press release verifying the 50% critical minerals production requirement and indicating a technical report is underway may be sufficient.

Example responses:

"Upgrades to the access road are necessary to enable an expansion of the XYZ Mining Company's [Mine or Project Name], located in [Town, City, Region], to transport the [critical mineral(s)] production to a new destination for processing. The mine has been in operation for the past decade, and a feasibility study and an environmental assessment have been completed in view of the expansion."

or

"The proposed transmission line will connect the XYZ Mining Company's [Mine or Project Name], located in [Town, City, Region], to regional infrastructure to facilitate future [name of the critical mineral(s)] production. The proponent completed a preliminary economic assessment two years ago, and a pre-feasibility study is underway."

8. To what extent has the Indigenous organization(s), group(s), or community(ies) associated with this application been engaged by the proponent(s) of the critical minerals infrastructure and mining project associated with this application? Please elaborate.

- If this is applicable to your application, please provide a description of the engagement to date. If not, please skip to [Question 9](#).

Example responses:

"The community has been actively engaged in the early planning of the access road through regular meetings and site visits with the XYZ Mining Company. Ongoing collaboration will include the integration of traditional knowledge into route selection and negotiations towards an impact benefit agreement related to the infrastructure project."

or

"There has been limited engagement with the XYZ Mining Company to date regarding their proposed transmission line. Given the potential impacts of the project on Aboriginal rights and land use, there is a need to initiate engagement to uphold the duty to consult."

Potential impacts of infrastructure and mining projects (Questions 9 to 10)

9. Please describe what positive and/or adverse impacts the critical minerals infrastructure and/or mine development may pose to the Indigenous organization(s), group(s), or community(ies) associated with this application. Consider the following types of possible impacts:
- ecological impacts
 - economic impacts
 - social and cultural impacts
 - impacts on organizational resources

- Examples of potential positive impacts: reduced air pollution, new training programs, new employment opportunities, and improved access to services for remote communities.
- Examples of potential adverse impacts: habitat fragmentation, strain on traditional economies, disruption of traditional land uses, and increased administrative burden on local organizations.

Example response:

"The proposed access road could create economic opportunities by connecting our remote community to the highway, which will improve regional employment. While road construction may create short-term jobs, further engagement and negotiation with the proponent are necessary to establish clear commitments to Indigenous procurement and long-term benefits. The construction and use of both the road and mine will likely result in ecological impacts, including habitat fragmentation and potential water contamination. In collaboration with the proponent, we will conduct an Indigenous-led environmental review to identify these risks and develop appropriate mitigation measures to reduce or address them. Improved connectivity may also improve our community's well-being by increasing access to essential services, such as healthcare, which are difficult to obtain in our remote community. However, engaging in environmental reviews and negotiations with the proponent will place a significant administrative burden on our organization's limited resource capacity. Reviewing documents, participating in meetings, and hiring experts will require capacity that is not currently available. Without adequate support or funding, our ability to advocate for our community's interests may be limited."

10. To your knowledge, would the proposed infrastructure and mine be located in an ecologically sensitive or culturally important area? If yes, please specify.

- If known, use a description to indicate whether the proposed infrastructure and/or mine will overlap with or be adjacent to one or more of the following types of areas:
 - ecologically sensitive areas (e.g., species at risk, critical habitat, wetlands, conservation areas, ecological corridors)

Note: The following resources may help you determine whether the proposed infrastructure and/or mine will be located on or near an ecologically sensitive area(s):

- [National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries map](#)
- [Canada's Conserved Areas publication](#) and [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database map](#)
- [Canadian Wetland Inventory map](#)
- culturally important areas (e.g., sacred sites, archaeological sites, areas used for harvesting or cultural practices)

Example response:

"The site for the proposed access road will overlap with areas used by [Community Name] for traditional harvesting and cultural practices. The area includes critical habitat for [species name(s)] that our community relies upon, as well as ecologically significant wetlands. Disruption to these wetlands could alter water quality and flow, and may lead to the release of stored carbon. Construction and use of the road could cause long-term impacts to the land, water systems, and wildlife populations."

About your CMIF Indigenous Grants initiative (Questions 11 to 22)

Initiative summary

11. What is the name of your proposed initiative?

- Please provide a brief name for the initiative that reflects the initiative's objective. This name will be used to refer to the initiative in any public communication materials that may be developed.

Example response:

"Strengthening Community Engagement and Participation in the Cherry Hill Transmission Line Project"

12. Select the Indigenous groups involved in your initiative (select all that apply).

- Please select all that apply (i.e., First Nations, Inuit, Métis) based on the Indigenous organization(s), group(s), or community(ies) your initiative may involve and/or benefit.

13. Provide a high-level summary of your proposed initiative, including:
- a. the initiative's objective (e.g., build capacity to assess the effects of the proposed infrastructure)
 - b. the engagement, capacity building, and/or knowledge gathering/sharing activities you are planning to undertake
 - c. how these activities relate to the eligible infrastructure project

- The activities described at this question should align with those selected in the Activities, outputs and results table at [Question 18](#) of the application.

Example response:

"The **objective** of the proposed initiative is to increase community awareness and participation in the Cherry Hill Access Road Project through engagement, capacity building, and knowledge gathering and sharing. The proposed initiative seeks to ensure [Community Name]'s rights, perspectives, and interests are meaningfully reflected in the design and implementation of the access road; and support long-term benefits for our community through a formalized partnership in the project.

Engagement activities will focus on facilitating transparent dialogue with XYZ Mining Company. We will host a dedicated meeting to discuss project design, timelines, and implementation plans, ensuring mutual understanding and identifying areas for community input. We will begin negotiations to legally incorporate a partnership between our organization and XYZ Mining Company, establishing equity ownership that enables revenue sharing and prioritizes Indigenous procurement throughout the construction and maintenance of the access road.

Capacity building activities will strengthen our internal ability to engage effectively with XYZ Mining Company and advocate for our community's priorities. This will include a week-long engagement and negotiation training session for our staff, providing them with knowledge and skills to actively participate in partnership negotiations. We will also hire legal consultants to provide expert guidance during negotiations and support the execution of the formal partnership agreement.

Knowledge gathering and sharing activities will be planned to ensure community involvement in shaping the design and implementation of the access road. We will host a series of community meetings to present the project proposal, gather feedback, and identify concerns and priorities. Information gathered from the community meetings will be used to inform the development of a report outlining our organization's position on the access road. The report will be shared with the community and XYZ Mining Company to serve as a key input into the next steps of project planning and implementation to ensure alignment between the project and our priorities."

14. Provide your best estimate of when your initiative will start and end.

- For this call for proposals, the initiative must occur **between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2028**.
 - ▶ Please ensure that the start and end dates match the dates specified in the Activities, outputs and results table at [Question 18](#).

15. Specify the location(s) where your initiative will take place.

- Your response should include the name of the venue, the municipality/community and the province or territory.
- In cases where the name of a venue is not available, you may include the coordinates of the location in the format latitude and longitude (e.g., 45.424721, -75.695000).

Example responses:

"Our activities will take place at the local community centre, in [municipality/community], Ontario."

or

"Our activities will take place at the XYZ Mining Company's [Mine or Project Name] site, located at [00.000000, -00.000000]."

Outcomes and benefits

16. Briefly describe the outcome(s) that you expect to achieve through your initiative.

- Your response should clearly describe the measurable (i.e., countable) outcome(s) to demonstrate whether your objective(s) have been met.

Example response:

"Approximately 30 community members attended two meetings to share their perspectives to inform the design of the proposed solar farm and mitigate environmental impacts.

Approximately 20 staff and community members have obtained the knowledge, skills, and certifications required to participate in environmental monitoring for the construction of the proposed solar farm.

One engagement protocol has been developed for the design and construction of the proposed solar farm. It incorporates traditional knowledge to ensure engagement timelines do not overlap with seasonal traditional practices."

17. Describe the benefits that are expected to result from your proposed initiative, including those for other demographics and organizations involved and/or benefiting from the initiative (e.g., Elders, youth, Indigenous organizations, industry organizations), how they will benefit, and when you anticipate these benefits may be realized (e.g., during the initiative's implementation, in the future, should the infrastructure be developed).

- Your response should clearly identify benefits to the specific demographics, organizations or communities, where possible.

Example response:

"Elders will offer their traditional knowledge and guidance during community meetings and report reviews. Youth Council members will participate in community meetings to share input on the project. These meetings will ensure that the voices of Elders and youth inform the project plan, which will result in a range of potential benefits (e.g., diversion of the access road around a culturally important site, training for youth to participate in environmental monitoring). Our staff will also gain skills via engagement and negotiation training, which will in turn enhance our capacity to lead this initiative and engage on future proposed projects on our territory. We consent to the project and, should XYZ Mining Company be responsive to the communities' interests and concerns, the company will also benefit (e.g., revenues from the project, a local workforce to support their operations).

The proposed initiative is expected to generate both short- and long-term benefits for [Community Name]. In the short-term, community members, including Elders and youth, will benefit from increased awareness of and participation in the Cherry Hill Transmission Line Project through targeted engagement and knowledge-sharing activities. Our staff will gain the skills and confidence necessary to participate in negotiations and project discussions. This will strengthen our organization's ability to advocate for our community's interests.

In the near/long term, formalizing a partnership with XYZ Mining Company is expected to result in revenue sharing and Indigenous procurement opportunities for [Community Name], which will create long-term economic benefits. Youth may also benefit from future employment and training opportunities related to the construction and operation of the transmission line."

Activities, outputs, and results

18. Further elaborate on the activities you propose to undertake through your initiative by completing Table 1 in the Application Form.

- A response should contain the following information for each of the activities comprising the initiative:
 - ▶ **Activity:** Select the activity from the drop-down menu that is most appropriate (e.g., Attending/hosting meetings; producing written reports/studies)
 - ▶ **Description:** Provide a brief description that explains what will be undertaken within the activity, being as specific as possible to justify associated costs (required in the Costs section)
 - ▶ **Outputs/Results:** Provide an indicator with a target that you intend to achieve for the activity:
 - activities must include a **measurable (i.e., countable) indicator** (e.g., "3 staff will complete training")
 - ▶ **Start by/Complete by:** Enter the start date and completion date for the activity:
 - **ensure all dates align** with the start and end dates provided in [Question 14](#)
 - ▶ please note that you will need to refer to the number of each activity identified in Table 1 when developing your budget table (Table 2)
- More information on eligible activities and expenses can be found in [Annex B](#).
- **Note:** Successful applicants will need to report at the end of each fiscal year on outputs/results.

Example response:

No.	Activity	Description	Outputs/Results	Start by	Complete by
1	Undertaking education/training	Participate in a week-long engagement training session delivered by ABC Consultants to increase engagement capacity	3 staff members from our organization will attend the training sessions	07-06-2026	07-10-2026
2	Attending/hosting meetings	Host a community open house to discuss a critical minerals infrastructure proposal and solicit feedback from participants	40 community members in attendance	08-12-2026	08-14-2026
3	Attending/hosting meetings	Hold a meeting with XYZ Mining Company to discuss their critical minerals infrastructure proposal	6 delegates from our organization and XYZ Mining Company in attendance	09-09-2026	09-09-2026
4	Producing written reports/studies	Publish a report highlighting our organization's position on the critical minerals infrastructure proposal	1 written report published	09-20-2026	12-31-2026
5	Hiring consultants/staff (for related work)	Hire consultants to execute legal incorporation of a partnership to advance participation in infrastructure-related opportunities	2 consultants hired to undertake CMIF Grants funded activities	06-10-2026	12-31-2026

Costs

19. In Table 2 of the Application Form, provide a detailed budget for your initiative, aligning your costs beside the appropriate eligible expenditure category.

- **Specify the dollar amounts associated with all the eligible expenditures** in your proposal.
 - CMIF Indigenous Grants may cover up to 100% of eligible expenditures, up to the maximum based on the location of the Indigenous organization linked to the application (between \$150,000 and \$200,000). For this application, all costs must be incurred before March 31, 2028. Expenditures contained in the budget should align with the start and completion dates specified in the Activities, outputs and results table above by ensuring expenditures are placed in the proper fiscal year columns.
- The description of expenditures **should include the activity number(s) from [Question 18](#)**, as applicable.
- The dollar amounts will need to be entered into the fiscal year columns (2026–27 or 2027–28) **which correspond to the fiscal year in which the activities** will take place.
 - **Example:** If travel will only occur between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2027, then eligible costs for travel should be entered into the 2026–27 column.
- **Ensure the budget only includes expenditures related to the CMIF Indigenous Grants funding being sought**, not the total cost associated with the initiative (i.e., expenditures paid for and contributions made by the applicant or other funding sources).
- **Please include quotes/estimates from companies that will provide goods or services for the initiative** (e.g., consultants, legal services, facilitators, researchers).
- Where relevant, **salaries and benefits should be broken down by staff rates of pay multiplied by the number of hours spent undertaking the Indigenous Grants funded activities.**

Example response:

Category	Description of expenditure (include any relevant activity number[s] from Table 1 for which this expenditure applies)	A CMIF Indigenous Grants request (2026–27)	B CMIF Indigenous Grants request (2027–28)	(A + B) Total CMIF Indigenous Grants request
Salaries and benefits	Activities 1, 2, 3 and 4. Salary for three staff to lead initiative activities	\$18,765	\$0	\$18,765
Professional, legal and contracting services	Activity 5. Hire consultants to execute legal incorporation of a partnership	\$32,000	\$0	\$32,000
Travel including meals and accommodations (based on National Joint Council rates)	Activity 1. Travel and accommodations for three staff to attend week-long engagement training	\$11,000	\$0	\$11,000
Printing and translation services	Activities 2, 3 and 4. Materials and translation services for community meetings and the meeting with XYZ Mining Company; printing and translation of the report	\$13,000	\$0	\$13,000
Laboratory, scientific, field, and personal safety equipment and supplies		\$0	\$0	\$0
Costs for training or other forms of financial transfers to non-salaried trainees and students	Activity 1. Training registration fees for three staff to attend week-long engagement training	\$16,000	\$0	\$16,000
Communications and media services		\$0	\$0	\$0
Rental of facilities, transportation and equipment	Activities 2 and 3. Facilities rentals for community meetings and meeting with XYZ Mining Company	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Costs associated with an Indigenous ceremony, including honoraria (as long as the recipient is not already in receipt of salary or other form of stipend to attend the event)	Activity 2. Honoraria for Elders attending community meetings	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500
Provincial sales tax (PST), goods and services tax (GST) and harmonized sales tax (HST) costs, net of any tax rebate to which the recipient is entitled		\$0	\$0	\$0
Overhead expenses directly related to your initiative up to 15% maximum of eligible total costs (e.g., internet, phone)		\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500
Total CMIF eligible expenditures		\$101,765	\$0	\$101,765

A breakdown of costs for the Salaries and benefits category expenditures could be as follows:

Staff salary: \$4,170 monthly wage at 25% workload on the initiative = \$1,042.50
multiplied by six months of the initiative = \$6,255 multiplied by three staff = \$18,765

20. In Table 3 of the Application Form, name all the organizations (including your own, if applicable) that will contribute to your initiative, identifying the type of contribution, and the amount that will be contributed.

Example response:

Contributors	Type (financial or in-kind)	Description of expenditure	Total contributions
CMIF Indigenous Grants funding request			\$101,765
Your organization	In-kind	Office space to plan and lead CMIF Indigenous Grants activities	\$15,000
Your organization	In-kind	Refreshments for community and proponent engagements	\$3,000
Your organization	In-kind	Salary for 1 staff member working 25% of their time on CMIF Indigenous Grant funded initiative activities	\$6,255
[Name of other federal department and fund]	Financial contribution	Professional fees for trainers; equipment and facilities rentals for environmental monitoring training	\$50,000
XYZ Mining Company	Financial contribution	Professional fees for trainers	\$15,000
Total cost of the initiative			\$191,020

In the example above, your organization would need to provide the following breakdown of costs for in-kind contributions:

Staff salary: \$4,170 monthly wage at 25% workload on the initiative = \$1,042.50
multiplied by six months of the initiative = \$6,255

Note: Applicants may submit additional documentation to respond to the application questions and provide the breakdown of costs.

Team

21. In Table 4 of the Application Form, identify the members of the leadership team that will be involved in your CMIF Indigenous Grants initiative, including current and planned members.

- Please identify the individuals who will be working on the initiative and highlight any qualifications that will enable them to successfully execute the initiative.
 - Describe each team member's expertise, years of experience working on similar initiatives, and proposed role in the initiative.
- If your organization intends to hire a consultant to undertake Indigenous Grants funded activities, please include information about their qualifications and experience working on similar initiatives.

Example response:

Team member	Expertise and years of experience	Proposed role (e.g. team lead, facilitator)
[Name], [Title]	24 years experience in project management and coordinating multi-party projects with timelines and deliverables; experience liaising between Indigenous communities and external proponents to reflect community interests and concerns	Team lead
[Name], [Title]	20 years experience facilitating meetings between Indigenous communities and external proponents on natural resources projects; experience preparing engagement summaries and contributing to position statements and reports	Facilitator
[Name], [Title]	8 years experience supporting facilitation activities and leading formal reports / position papers for Indigenous organizations; experience navigating environmental and regulatory processes related to natural resources development	Report lead
[Name], [Title]	3 years experience supporting facilitation, engagement activities and report development in the natural resources sector	Facilitation and engagement support
[Name], [Title]	15 years experience providing legal guidance on negotiations; experience formalizing partnerships between industry and Indigenous organizations/communities in natural resources development	Lead negotiator

Key risks or challenges

22. In Table 5 of the Application Form, identify the most significant risks or challenges associated with your initiative that may hinder your organization from realizing your desired outcome, as well as the associated mitigation strategies that your organization intends to use to address the risks or challenges specified. Three risks and mitigation strategies are required for an application to be eligible.

- The purpose of this section is to demonstrate that applicants have given due consideration to potential risks or challenges to the completion of their initiative.
- In the blue table below are specific examples.
- All applications must include **three risks and mitigation strategies** to be considered eligible.
- **The risks and mitigation strategies in your application should relate to the CMIF Indigenous Grants-funded initiative and not the infrastructure or mining projects themselves.**

Example response:

Potential risks	Potential risk mitigation strategies
Initiative team may lack the specialized experience necessary to efficiently manage initiative requirements	Consult a peer community or organization that has successfully delivered a similar initiative, leveraging their lessons learned and best practices to effectively manage requirements
Time available to complete initiative work may be insufficient to achieve desired outcomes	Develop an initiative schedule outlining each task, its relative priority, and the time needed to complete it, as well as any interdependencies Establish a contingency initiative schedule to accommodate a scaled-back scope which still achieves an acceptable level of desired outcomes, if necessary
Budgeting may be difficult to finalize due to volatility in prices for goods and services necessary for initiative completion	Obtain estimates and finalize invoicing as soon as possible to maintain up-to-date costing projections
Other organizations, groups, or communities may oppose the CMIF Indigenous Grants initiative	Establish communication plans and engagement strategies through proactive dialogue, including consistent messaging that CMIF Indigenous Grants initiatives do not equate to support for critical minerals or infrastructure development
Consultants contracted to undertake initiative work may not meet specified timelines	Set conditions within the contract to hold back a portion of payments to consultants until successful completion of required initiative work within specified timelines, or include late penalties if initiative work is not completed on time Communicate the initiative schedule to consultants as early as possible to minimize issues with meeting project deadlines

Conflict of interest attestation

Review the content in this section and, to the best of your knowledge, select either “Yes” or “No” depending on your organization’s context.

Declarations

Review the content in this section and, if you are in agreement with the terms:

- provide a **valid signature** in the Duly authorized officer (Signature) text box
- **Notes:**
 - ▶ The signatory will need to include a valid signature on the application by either applying a “certificate-based digital signature”, as described on the Adobe web page, **or** a “wet signature” (i.e., print the page and sign it then scan to PDF for distribution).
 - ▶ A signature can only be considered valid if it cannot be moved around the page after being applied.
- enter the **date of signing** in the Date text box
- enter the **name of the signatory** in the Print name text box
- enter the **signatory’s role** within the applicant organization in the Role in organization text box

Closing

Thank you for your interest in the CMIF Indigenous Grants. Once you have completed your Application Form, remember to attach it along with all required documentation specified under **Step 1: Application submission** when you email it to the CMIF Indigenous Grants team, at cmif_ig-sa_fimc@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca.

Should you require additional information about any portion of this guidance document, please contact the CMIF Indigenous Grants team any time.

Annex A: Eligible infrastructure projects

The CMIF provides funding associated with **clean energy and transportation infrastructure projects** that will enable **increased production** at a mine producing **at least 50% critical minerals**. All CMIF-funded projects must be located entirely in Canada.

Clean energy infrastructure projects, under the program, are those that drive environmental performance while supporting increased critical minerals production by enabling access to existing electrical grids or integrating a renewable energy source. This includes:

- mine site infrastructure (e.g., grid connectivity; deployment of renewable and alternative energy infrastructure, including, but not limited to, hydro, solar and wind; battery storage projects and electric vehicle charging stations for mining equipment)
- projects with a regional impact on the development or expansion of critical minerals resource production. Regional impacts may include larger scale initiatives to provide renewable or alternative energy for mining activities at more than one mine site and/or local communities (e.g., hydroelectric projects), so long as a concrete link to the program objective of enabling critical minerals production is substantiated

Energy generation projects must have a minimum net installed capacity of 500 kilowatts (kW) if they are majority Indigenous owned (51% or more) or 4 megawatts (MW) if they are not Indigenous owned (<51%).

Transportation infrastructure projects, under the program, are those that directly enable the development or expansion of critical minerals resources, including roads, rail, and marine transportation infrastructure necessary to connect the mine to the midstream segments of value chains (e.g., to processing facilities or to transportation systems that allow access to global markets). To be eligible, the infrastructure must be for the movement of critical minerals; infrastructure that would only support the movement of people and/or equipment is not eligible (e.g., airstrips). Transportation projects may include:

- infrastructure that serves a single mine (e.g., an access road)
- regional infrastructure that serves a mine or mining area and other users (e.g., nearby communities), so long as a concrete link to the program objective of enabling critical minerals production is substantiated

Eligible activities

Initiatives that are eligible under the CMIF Indigenous Grants must include engagement, capacity-building, and knowledge gathering and sharing activities related to a clean energy and/or transportation infrastructure project that enables the development and expansion of critical minerals production in Canada (i.e., enabling mining activities, not including processing or manufacturing):

- **engagement** activities may include meetings and consultations about one or more eligible infrastructure projects linked to critical minerals development. For example, applicants may receive funding to enable their engagement (in person or virtual) with government and industry, as well as other rights holders, stakeholders and partners regarding the clean energy and/or transportation infrastructure projects
- **capacity building** activities may include securing or improving the organization's skills, knowledge and tools to enable their participation in discussions about one or more clean energy and/or transportation infrastructure projects linked to critical minerals development
- **knowledge gathering/sharing** activities may include the collection and distribution of Indigenous and/or Western knowledge for purposes of supporting Indigenous participation in one or more eligible infrastructure projects linked to critical minerals development. The activities may be targeted (e.g., gathering traditional knowledge to inform a mine access road feasibility study), or they may be broad (e.g., publishing a community-led report about the potential impacts and benefits of a wind infrastructure that is proposed to power a nearby mine)

Eligible expenses

The CMIF Indigenous Grants may cover up to 100% of eligible expenses needed to complete an initiative. Eligible expenses include:

- salaries and benefits for employees' time spent on the initiative
- costs for training, including wages, stipends, or other forms of financial transfers to non-salaried trainees and students, and fees paid to trainers and training organizations
- honoraria, ceremonial costs and hospitality costs (including cultural gifts and prizes) for community engagement events and meetings
- rental of facilities, transportation and equipment
- travel costs, including meals and accommodation, based on National Joint Council rates
- professional, legal and contracting services
- communications and media services
- translation, editing, publication and printing
- laboratory, scientific, field, and personal safety equipment and supplies
- overhead expenditures, such as office operating expenses, to a maximum of 15% of total eligible expenditures, provided they are directly related to the initiative
- provincial sales tax, goods and services tax, and harmonized sales tax costs, net of any tax rebate to which the recipient is entitled

Ineligible expenses include capital expenditures, costs for construction, lost income, renovation of buildings, and legal fees related to litigation or similar legal actions. The CMIF Indigenous Grants will not cover these costs.