



Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund

Indigenous Grants Application Form

2025 Call for Proposals

Legal name of the applicant organization:

Name of signatory:

Signatory's role in the organization:

Full mailing address:

Telephone:

Email:

Introduction

Led by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF) supports the development of clean energy and transportation infrastructure projects necessary to enable the sustainable development of critical minerals throughout Canada. The CMIF Indigenous Grants Stream supports initiatives that advance Indigenous engagement or participation related to these critical minerals infrastructure projects.

Please note that CMIF Indigenous Grants applications are not considered an indication of the applicant's consent or support for infrastructure or critical minerals development, as the intent is to provide funding for initiatives to advance awareness, understanding, and discussions on such topics.



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

Canada 

Eligibility

Eligible organizations must be Indigenous organizations or non-Indigenous organizations working on behalf of an Indigenous partner.

Activities must be associated with an eligible critical minerals infrastructure project and may also seek to address impacts resulting from current or potential critical minerals development more generally. Eligible critical minerals infrastructure projects are clean energy or transportation infrastructure that will enable increased production at a mine producing at least 50% critical minerals, as identified in [Canada’s critical minerals list](#). Infrastructure may be in the **design stage** (e.g., pre-feasibility and impact-related studies) or the **implementation phase** (e.g., construction of an access road or transmission line).

Eligible activities include:

- engagement (e.g., in-person or virtual meetings with project proponents)
- capacity building (e.g., completing training or hiring personnel)
- knowledge gathering/sharing (e.g., publishing reports or studies to inform decisions)

More information on eligible activities and expenses can be found in Annex B of the CMIF Indigenous Grants Applicant Guide.

Available funding

The 2025 call for proposals will provide up to **\$3 million** in grant funding to eligible initiatives. The maximum amount of grant funding available varies depending on the location of the applicant or Indigenous partner organization, as shown below.

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

For this call for proposals, CMIF Indigenous Grants will fund initiatives that will occur between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2028.

Application submission

Along with the completed application form, applicants 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
- a letter of support from the leadership of an Indigenous partner organization, if the applicant is a non-Indigenous organization

During the submission process, applicants 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.

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 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

Funding approval

The CMIF Indigenous Grants team will notify you if your application is selected for funding. When funding is approved, applicants 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 the cheques cannot be issued).

About this application form

The application form is separated into three main sections:

- **applicant organization**, where you outline details about the applicant and/or Indigenous group(s) linked to this application
- **critical minerals infrastructure and mining project**, where you can provide information about the infrastructure and mining projects that are associated with your application, to the best of your knowledge
- **about your CMIF Indigenous Grants initiative**, where you will be invited to provide all information related to your proposed initiative

About the CMIF Indigenous Grants Applicant Guide

It is recommended that you refer to the Applicant Guide while completing this application form as it provides more details on the assessment process, as well as guidance and examples to support you in completing the application form. You may also wish to refer to the [CMIF Indigenous Grants website](#).

Applicant organization

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.

1. Select your organization type:

Indigenous community or government

Indigenous tribal council or similar organization (e.g., regional council)

Indigenous for-profit organization (51% or greater ownership by Indigenous Peoples)

Indigenous non-profit organization (51% or greater ownership by Indigenous Peoples)

academic or research institution

provincial, territorial, regional or municipal government

Canadian not-for-profit organization

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

To be considered for grant funding, applications submitted by non-Indigenous organizations must **include a letter from the leadership of an Indigenous organization** confirming the applicant is working on their behalf.



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

First Nations

Inuit

Métis

Northern or remote designation

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

4. Is the Indigenous organization linked to this application associated with a community or multiple communities located in a remote or northern area?

Yes

No

If "yes", select all that apply below under Question 5.

If "no", skip to Question 6.

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)?

Northern

Yukon
Northwest Territories
Inuvialuit Settlement Region
Nunavut
Nunavik
Nunatsiavut

Remote

Not connected to the broader critical infrastructure networks such as the electrical grid, highway system or piped natural gas network

Lack year-round surface transportation and have a year-round population according to the national census

A long distance from larger settlements or lack transportation links that are typical in more populated areas

Receive infrequent postal services as shown in the [postal codes of remote areas table](#)

If the applicant is considered northern or remote for other reasons, please specify:

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.
(500 characters recommended)

Potential impacts of infrastructure and mining projects

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:
- a. ecological impacts
 - b. economic impacts
 - c. social and cultural impacts
 - d. impacts on organizational resources
- (1,000–2,000 characters recommended)

10. To your knowledge, would the proposed infrastructure and mine be located in an ecologically sensitive or culturally important area? If yes, please specify. (500 characters recommended)

About your CMIF Indigenous Grants initiative

Initiative summary

11. What is the **name of your proposed initiative?** (maximum 100 characters)
12. Select the **Indigenous groups involved in** your initiative (select all that apply):
- First Nations
 - Inuit
 - Métis

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

(2,000–3,000 characters recommended)

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

Note: For this call for proposals, the initiative **must occur** between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2028.

Your initiative will start on:

Your initiative will end on:

15. Specify the **location(s) where your initiative will take place. (300 characters recommended)**

Note: A response could include the name of the venue, the municipality/community and the province or territory (e.g., "our activities will take place at the community centre, in [municipality/community], Ontario"). 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).

Outcomes and benefits

- 16. Briefly describe the **outcome(s)** that you expect to achieve through your initiative. For example:**
"Approximately 30 community members attended two meetings to share their perspectives to inform the design and route selection of the proposed transmission line and mitigate environmental impacts." (600–1,000 characters recommended)

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). (1,000–2,000 characters recommended)

Activities, outputs and results

18. **Further elaborate on the activities you propose to undertake through your initiative by completing the table below.**

Note: In Table 1 below, select the activities you plan to undertake from the drop-down list in the Activity column then enter a brief description.

Each activity must include measurable (i.e., countable) indicators in the Outputs/Results column to enable a determination of the activity’s success. For example, if one of your planned activities is to host training sessions, then an output could be “Four training sessions with approximately 20 staff and community members in attendance to obtain the knowledge and skills required to participate in environmental monitoring for construction of the access road.”

Please review the **Activities, outputs, and results** section of the **CMIF Indigenous Grants Applicant Guide** for detailed guidance on how to complete this table, including examples for reference.

- * Please ensure all dates align with the start and end dates that you provided in Question 14 above.
- ** 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).

Table 1: Activities, outputs and results

No.**	Activity	Description	Outputs/Results	Start by*	Complete by*
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Table 1: Activities, outputs and results (continued)

No.**	Activity	Description	Outputs/Results	Start by*	Complete by*
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Costs

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

Note: 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. **Please ensure this budget only includes expenditures related to the CMIF Indigenous Grants funding being sought, not the total cost associated with the initiative.**

Applicants must include quotes/estimates from companies that will provide goods or services for the initiative. Where relevant, salaries and benefits should be broken down by staff rates of pay multiplied by the number of hours spent undertaking the activities.



Table 2: Budget table

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) (\$)	Total CMIF Indigenous Grants request (A + B) (\$)
Salaries and benefits				
Professional, legal and contracting services				
Travel including meals and accommodations (based on National Joint Council rates)				
Printing and translation services				
Laboratory, scientific, field, and personal safety equipment and supplies				

Table 2: Budget table (continued)

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) (\$)	Total CMIF Indigenous Grants request (A + B) (\$)
Costs for training or other forms of financial transfers to non-salaried trainees and students				
Communications and media services				
Rental of facilities, transportation and equipment				
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)				
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				
Overhead expenses directly related to your initiative up to 15% maximum of eligible total costs (e.g., internet, phone)				
TOTAL CMIF ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES				

20. In Table 3 below, 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.

Note: Contributions can either be **financial** (e.g., providing funds to cover expenditures) or **in-kind** (e.g., allocating staff time to undertake CMIF Indigenous Grants funded activities, donating use of office space or computer equipment).

Contributions will **only be permitted for eligible expenditures** as specified in the budget table above.

Please be advised that when **in-kind contributions** are identified, applicants must specify what they are for in the column **Description of expenditure** and clearly indicate that in-kind expenditures do not overlap with CMIF Indigenous Grants–funded activities.

Please note that while up to 100% of your initiative may be covered by government (federal, provincial/territorial, municipal) funding, the CMIF Indigenous Grants will not cover expenses that another governmental organization is already funding. **The amount of CMIF Indigenous Grants funding being sought by this application** (i.e., total CMIF eligible expenditures bottom row of Table 2) **must be reflected in the first row of Table 3.**

Table 3: Contributors

Contributors	Type (financial or in-kind)	Description of expenditure (see instructions for in-kind contributions in above paragraphs)	Total contributions (\$)
CMIF Indigenous Grants funding request	N/A	N/A	
Your organization			
Other contributor 1:			
Other contributor 2:			
Other contributor 3:			
Other contributor 4:			
Other contributor 5:			
Other contributor 6:			
TOTAL COST OF THE INITIATIVE			

Team

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

Note: For each team member, describe their **expertise**, their **years of experience** working on similar initiatives, and their **proposed role** in the initiative, as applicable.

Table 4: Initiative leadership team

Team member	Expertise and years of experience	Proposed role (e.g., team lead, facilitator)

Key risks or challenges

22. In Table 5 below, 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.**

Additional guidance and example responses are available in the **Key risks or challenges** section of the **CMIF Indigenous Grants Applicant Guide**. Please only highlight risks and mitigation strategies related to your initiative and not the infrastructure project(s) or associated critical minerals mine(s).

Table 5: Risks and mitigation strategies

Potential risks	Potential mitigation strategies

Conflict of interest attestation

Definition: A person is in a conflict of interest when they exercise an official power, duty or function that provides an opportunity to further their private interests or those of their relatives or friends or to improperly influence another person’s private interests.

The following questions will help you assess if a real, potential, or perceived conflict of interest exists. Answering “yes” to the questions below will not immediately disqualify you from the process to obtain CMIF grant funding. If you identify a potential conflict of interest, NRCan may ask for additional information and would use that information to determine whether a funding agreement would be possible in light of the requirements of the *Conflict of Interest Act* and the *Conflict of Interest and Post-Employment Code for Public Office Holders*.

To the best of your knowledge:

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. are any current or former Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) employees working on or associated with the development of this application or your project? | Yes | No |
| 2. is anyone in your organization either a friend or a business acquaintance of any NRCan employee that could result in you or your organization receiving a preferential treatment? | Yes | No |
| 3. will a current or former public servant or any of their relatives or friends be receiving any personal or financial benefit of any kind as a result of NRCan entering into an agreement with your organization? | Yes | No |
| 4. have you, any individual working in your organization, your partners’ organizations or any individual working in their organization, formerly provided consultancy services to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources that are related to your project, particularly any services associated with the development of the application? | Yes | No |

Declarations

The applicant organization:

1. attests that, before receiving funding, the organization will be legally registered, established or incorporated in Canada
2. attests that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge
3. certifies that they have the management, financial and technical resources to fulfill the undertaking, and attests that they will provide the information on results
4. understands that any costs incurred for the submission of this application are at their own risk
5. attests that it is the owner of all application information – proprietary, confidential, or otherwise – or, if the information belongs to another party, that it has obtained written consent to disclose the information to NRCan
6. understands that project funding decisions will be made following receipt and review of the project application, and provides consent for the CMIF program to use the submitted information and share it with program employees, external consultants, review committee members, and/or officials in other government organizations (e.g., federal, provincial, territorial and municipal organizations; Crown corporations) for the purposes of assessing the application's eligibility for funding under the CMIF or other funding programs and for audit and evaluation
7. understands and acknowledges that no liability, commitment or obligation exists on the part of NRCan to make a financial contribution to the project until a written grant agreement is signed by both parties
8. understands that NRCan reserves the right to alter the current process, funding amounts and deadlines; or cancel the entire process at its sole discretion
9. understands that federal reviewers are bound by the requirements of the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* regarding the treatment of confidential information
10. attests that if lobbyists are used, they will ensure that the lobbyists are registered in accordance with the *Lobbying Act*, no potential conflict of interest exists, and they do not pay lobbyists on a contingency fee basis. If they contract lobbyists to assist in seeking a financial contribution from federal government entities, fees paid to lobbyists are not to be related to the value of the grant

The signatory attests that they are authorized by the applicant organization to submit this application on its behalf.

Duly authorized officer (Signature)

Date

Print name

Role in organization