



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

# **GREEN PRAIRIE ECONOMY**

ALIGNED FEDERAL PROGRAMS  
AND INITIATIVES

Since 2015, the Government of Canada has committed more than \$120 billion towards climate action and sustainable economic development. This historic level of investment includes departmental funding programs, strategic finance, investment tax credits, as well as strategies, initiatives and services to support a greener economy in the Prairies and across the country.

This section provides examples of federal programs and initiatives aligned with the five areas for action identified by Prairie stakeholders during consultations for the **Framework to Build a Green Prairie Economy**:

1. [Growing Key Regional Sectors, including Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Manufacturing](#)
2. [Effective Movement of Goods, People and Information](#)
3. [Expanding and Capitalizing on Clean Electricity](#)
4. [Community Economic Development](#)
5. [Economic Reconciliation and Inclusive Growth](#)

For more information about these programs and initiatives, including current status and contact information, please visit the links included in each description. Ongoing project pathfinding support is also available through Canada's [Clean Growth Hub](#), [Business Benefits Finder](#), and [Indigenous Business Navigator](#).

## 1. Growing Key Regional Sectors, including Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Manufacturing

### FUNDING PROGRAMS

- [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#): A five-year, cost-shared agreement between the federal government, provinces and territories started April 1, 2023. It provides \$3.5 billion to be invested in programs and activities enabling agricultural innovation, enhanced sustainability, marketing and business growth, risk management, and sectoral resilience. This includes \$2.5 billion in federal-provincial/territorial cost-shared programs to support region-specific agriculture programs and services that are tailored to meet regional needs. (*Agriculture and Agri-food Canada – AAFC*)
- [Agricultural Clean Technology \(ACT\) Program](#): The ACT Program is a seven-year, \$470.7 million initiative, comprised of two funding streams, with the Adoption Stream ending on March 31, 2026, and the Research and Innovation Stream ending on March 31, 2028. (*AAFC*)
- [Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Labs](#): This \$185 million, ten-year program (2021 to 2031) has established a Canada-wide network of agroecosystem living labs to bring together farmers, scientists, and other sector partners to co-develop and test innovative technologies and farm practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon in real-world conditions, while also providing other environmental co-benefits. Program applications are currently closed. (*AAFC*)
- [Agricultural Climate Solutions – On-Farm Climate Action Fund](#): This \$200 million three-year program (2021-2024) supports farmers in adopting sustainable management practices that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing practices. The program received an additional \$470 million to top-up, broaden support, extend the program to 2028, and an additional \$34.1 million to focus specifically on the adoption of nitrogen management practices in Eastern Canada. This program is currently closed but continues to be open to producers through delivery partners. (*AAFC*)
- [Critical Minerals Strategy](#): Canada’s critical minerals strategy is intended to increase the supply of responsibly sourced critical minerals to build domestic and global value chains for the green and digital economy. Budgets 2021, 2022 and 2023 included several funded initiatives to help support critical minerals (*Led by Natural Resources Canada – NRCan*):
  - \$1.5 billion for the [Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund](#) to support upstream clean energy and transportation infrastructure projects necessary to accelerate critical minerals production. NRCan launched a first round of Call for Proposals under the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund on November 20, 2023. (*NRCan*)
  - \$144.4 million for the [Critical Minerals Research and Development and Demonstrations Program](#), for funding of up to \$5 million per project to critical mineral projects to improve the feasibility of producing or commercializing their novel technologies and innovative process designs and support the enhanced environmental and social performance of their production methods. The second round of proposals closed Sept 29, 2023. (*NRCan*)
  - \$79.2 million for the [Critical Minerals Geoscience and Data Initiative](#) to accelerate public geoscience for critical minerals. The program provides funding to advance the availability of valuable data and insights on the location, quality, and economic feasibility of critical minerals resources. The National Geological Survey Committee launched a call for proposals on June 15, 2023. (*NRCan*)

- \$25 million under the critical minerals stream of the [Indigenous Natural Resources Partnerships Program](#) dedicated to Indigenous communities' capacity building to support their participation in the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy. *(NRCan)*
  - \$40 million for the [Northern Regulatory Initiative](#) to support northern regulatory processes in reviewing and permitting critical minerals projects. *(NRCan)*
  - \$1.5 billion for the [Strategic Innovation Fund \(SIF\)](#) to support critical mineral projects, prioritizing given to advanced manufacturing, processing, and recycling applications. *(Innovation, Science and Economic Development – ISED)*
  - The Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) also supports critical minerals enabling infrastructure through its Trade and Transportation priority sector. *(CIB)*
- [Emissions Reduction Fund](#): Announced in 2020, this program represents a \$750 million investment to support emissions reduction in the oil and gas sector. The fund will help enable onshore and offshore oil and gas companies to invest in green solutions to reduce emissions and retain jobs in the sector. *(NRCan)*
  - [Energy Innovation Program \(EIP\)](#): The Energy Innovation Program has an annual core funding of \$116M per year (ongoing) to advance clean energy technologies that will help Canada meet its climate change targets, while supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy. It funds research, development and demonstration (RD&D) projects, and other related scientific activities. Additionally, EIP received targeted time-limited funding to advance key priority areas: Budget 2021 invested an additional \$319M over seven years for research, development, and demonstrations to advance the development and commercial viability of carbon capture, utilization, and storage, and Budget 2023 provided \$45.6M over 3 years for dedicated smart grid research, development and demonstrations. *(NRCan)*
  - [Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Research and Development](#): Budget 2021 announced \$319 million over seven years, starting in 2021-22, to support carbon capture, utilization and storage research and development. These funds will bring together businesses, academia, non-profits, industry, and governments to advance this area of interest. *(NRCan)*
  - [Clean Fuels Fund](#): Announced in Budget 2021, this \$1.5 billion, five-year program aims to de-risk the capital investment required to build new or expand existing clean fuel production facilities. *(NRCan)*
  - [Strategic Innovation Fund](#): The Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) allocates repayable and non-repayable contributions to firms of all sizes across all of Canada's industrial and technology sectors and to companies or non-profit organizations seeking funding to support their innovation network. SIF's Net Zero Accelerator will provide up to \$8 billion to support large-scale investments in key industrial sectors across the country to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance sustainability of operations. *(ISED)*
  - [Global Innovation Clusters](#): The Global Innovation Clusters program is providing nearly \$2 billion to support large-scale collaboration among industry leaders, SMEs, and post-secondary institutions to develop and scale high-potential technologies in Canada. The program supports five industry-led clusters in key sectors of Canadian advantage to build world-leading innovation ecosystems – the Digital Technology Cluster, the Protein Industries Cluster, the Advanced Manufacturing Cluster, the Scale AI Cluster, and the Ocean Cluster. Based in the Prairies Provinces, the Protein Industries Cluster aims to serve growing markets for plant-based meat alternatives and new products. Total funding is up to \$323 million, and the expected GDP impact over 10 years is more than \$4.5 billion and projected to create 4,500 jobs. *(ISED)*

- [Industrial Research Assistance Program](#): The National Research Council of Canada's (NRC) Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) is an innovation assistance program for small and medium-sized businesses. In addition to supporting innovation, this program supports skills and knowledge transfer. IRAP is to transition into the new Canada Innovation Corporation (CIC). The CIC is an outcome-driven organization with a clear and focused mandate to help Canadian businesses across all sectors and regions become more innovative and productive. ISED, the CIC Transition Team and the National Research Council Canada (NRC) continue to prepare for the transfer of the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) from the NRC to CIC. *(NRC)*
- [Low Carbon Economy Fund](#): The Low Carbon Economy Fund (LCEF) supports projects that help reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, generate clean growth, build resilient communities, and create good jobs for Canadians led by a variety of recipients through four streams – the Leadership Fund, the Challenge Fund, the Indigenous Leadership Fund, and the Implementation Readiness Fund. *(Environment and Climate Change Canada – ECCC)*
- [Regional Economic Growth through Innovation \(REGI\)\\*](#): Announced in 2018 REGI is delivered by Canada's Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to support economic growth through innovation and job creation. There are two program streams, Business Scale-up and Productivity (BSP) and Regional Innovation Ecosystems (RIE), which Prairies Economic Development Canada offers for Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. *(Prairies Economic Development Canada – PrairiesCan)*
  - [BSP](#) provides repayable funding for high-growth small and medium-sized businesses operating in the Prairies to scale up and produce innovative goods, services, or technologies. Current priorities include food and ingredients processing, zero emission heavy equipment vehicles, and critical minerals processing. \$68.4 M were invested through the BSP stream in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and the program accepts expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.
  - [RIE](#) program aims to create and grow inclusive regional ecosystems that support business needs along the innovation continuum, and foster an entrepreneurial environment conducive to innovation, growth and competitiveness in such sectors as clean technology, resources, value-added agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and digital industries. The program supports inclusive economic growth for not-for-profit, Indigenous peoples, women, and youth.

### **EXAMPLES OF INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS**

*Broad-based investment tax measures aligned with clean growth objectives.*

- [Critical Minerals Exploration Tax Credit](#): This 30% tax credit has been introduced to support exploration of critical minerals and is available to investors under certain flow through shares agreements to support specified exploration expenditures incurred in Canada. *(Finance Canada – FIN)*
- [Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Tax Credit \(CCUS-ITC\)](#): The CCUS-ITC seeks to de-risk private investment in CCUS technologies. Expenditures incurred from 2022 to 2030 are proposed to be eligible for rates of 60% for capture equipment used in direct air capture projects, 50% for capture equipment for all other projects and 37.5% for transportation, storage and use equipment. These rates are proposed to be reduced by half from 2031 to 2040. Labour requirements will need to be met to receive the maximum tax credit rates. Enabling legislation for the CCUS-ITC was introduced in Parliament on November 30, 2023. *(FIN)*

- [Clean Hydrogen Investment Tax Credit \(CH-ITC\)](#): The CH-ITC is a refundable investment tax credit for investments made in clean hydrogen production. Levels of support would vary between 15 and 40 per cent of eligible project costs, with the projects that produce the cleanest hydrogen receiving the highest levels of support. A 15 per cent tax credit to equipment needed to convert hydrogen into ammonia, to transport the hydrogen, and subject to certain conditions, would also apply. The credit would apply to property that is acquired and becomes available for use on or after March 28, 2023 (Budget Day), with the credit rate reduced by one half in 2034 and would be fully phased out by 2035. Labour requirements will need to be met to receive the maximum tax credit rates. The government is targeting to introduce legislation in Parliament in early 2024. *(FIN)*

### **STRATEGIC FINANCE**

- [The Canada Infrastructure Bank \(CIB\)](#): Announced during the Fall 2016 economic update the CIB is a Federal Crown Corporation that invests in revenue-generating infrastructure projects which benefit Canadians and attracts private capital. CIB priority sectors that align with this area include:
  - [Trade and Transportation Priority Sector - Agriculture](#): Agriculture related infrastructure is an important component of the CIB's Trade and Transportation priority sector. Initial commitments and engagements have targeted modernizing irrigation infrastructure and increasing water storage, and are primarily in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The CIB may also invest in infrastructure that supports agriculture through its Broadband and Green Infrastructure priority areas.
  - [Trade and Transportation Priority Sector- Critical Minerals](#): The Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy (2022) positioned the CIB as a complementary financing source to accelerate the development of Canada's critical mineral resources and supply chains, including investment in enabling infrastructure that would be necessary to advance projects in the critical minerals supply chain. These efforts would be a part of its \$5 billion Trade and Transportation priority investment area. Budget 2023 announced the Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF), which will allocate \$1.5 billion towards energy and transportation projects needed to unlock priority mineral deposits. The CIB will work with the CMIF to ensure its continued role in enabling critical minerals infrastructure.
- [Canada Growth Fund \(CGF\)](#) is a \$15 billion, arm's length public investment fund that will help attract private capital to build Canada's clean economy by using investment instruments that absorb certain risks in order to encourage private investment in low carbon projects, technologies, businesses, and supply chains. *(CGF)*

### **STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICES**

- [Regional Energy and Resource Tables](#): Regional Tables bring the federal government together with individual provinces and territories – in collaboration with Indigenous partners as well as essential stakeholders – to advance the top economic priorities in the energy and resource sectors in each of Canada's regions. NRCan is working closely with PrairiesCan and other federal departments and agencies to ensure that actions identified through the Regional Tables, to support [Canada's carbon management strategy](#), clean economic growth, and net zero goals in the Prairie provinces, are aligned and complementary to the elements contained within the Framework. *(NRCan)*
- [Accelerated Growth Service](#): The Accelerated Growth Service helps growth-oriented Canadian businesses to expand by helping them access the key government services

they need to grow, such as financing, exporting, innovation and business advice. (ISED)

- [Clean Growth Hub](#): The Clean Growth Hub is a whole-of-government focal point for clean technology focused on supporting companies and projects, coordinating programs and tracking results. (ISED)
- [Industrial Decarbonization Team](#): The Industrial Decarbonization Team facilitates and supports the development and financing of transformative projects in Canada's industrial sectors. The Team acts a central point of contact with the Government of Canada for project proponents working on large-scale industrial decarbonization projects. (ISED)
- [Critical Minerals Strategy](#): Canada's critical minerals strategy is intended to increase the supply of responsibly sourced critical minerals to build domestic and global value chains for the green and digital economy (NRCan):
  - \$21.5 million, to 2024-25, to establish the [Critical Minerals Centre of Excellence](#) to develop federal policies and programs on critical minerals and to assist project developers in navigating regulatory processes and federal support measures.
  - \$70 million to support the [Global Partnerships Initiative](#) to support Canada's international commitments and engagements in critical mineral-related geoscience, R&D, trade and investment attraction, and transparency and sustainability initiatives.
- Creation of the [Canada Water Agency](#) (CWA): The Government of Canada is establishing a new Canada Water Agency and making major investments in a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including new Freshwater Engagement Initiatives for Lake Winnipeg and the Mackenzie River, among others.. The CWA mandate will be to improve freshwater management in Canada by providing leadership, effective collaboration federally, and improved coordination and collaboration with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to proactively address national and regional transboundary freshwater challenges and opportunities. In particular, work with prairie provinces for the management of transboundary waters will continue through the Prairie Provinces Water Board. Finally, siting the CWA in Winnipeg, supported by the work of regional offices across Canada, will allow the CWA to be responsive to freshwater challenges, many of which are regional in nature, and the significant freshwater challenges on the Prairies. (ECCC)

## 2. Effective Movement of Goods, People and Information

### FUNDING PROGRAMS

- [National Trade Corridors Fund](#): This 11-year, \$4.6 billion program supports projects that improve the flow of goods and people in Canada, and the flow of trade in and out of Canada. The fund is set to end in March 2028. *(Transport Canada – TC)*
- [Purchase Incentive Program for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicles](#): Launched on July 11, 2022, this is a \$547.5 million program, running over four years, or until available funding is exhausted, provides incentives for for-profit and not-for-profit entities, provinces, territories, and municipalities to purchase/lease eligible medium and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles. *(TC)*
- [Incentives for Zero-Emission Vehicles \(iZEV\) Program](#): Launched on May 1, 2019, this is an over \$2 billion program, running until March 31, 2025, or until available funding is exhausted, and provides incentives of up to \$5,000 for eligible light-duty zero-emission vehicles. It is accessible to individuals, businesses and fleets, and other orders of governments. *(TC)*
- [Permanent Public Transit Fund](#): Canada’s first permanent transit fund averaging \$3 billion annually will start in 2026-2027. Permanent public transit funding will provide stable and predictable support to help upgrade and expand public transit and active transportation networks, enable long-term planning, and strengthen integration of transit, housing, and land-use. *(Infrastructure Canada – INFC)*
- [Rural Transit Solutions Fund](#): Launched in 2021, the Fund provides \$250 million in federal funding over 5 years to support the development of locally-driven transit solutions that will help people living in rural communities get around their communities. The RTSF capital stream is currently open and accepting applications on an ongoing basis. *(INFC)*
- The [Zero Emission Transit Fund](#) announced \$2.75 billion over five years, starting in 2021, to support public transit and school bus operators plan for electrification, support the purchase of 5,000 zero emission buses and build supporting infrastructure, including charging infrastructure and facility upgrades. Applications are currently being accepted for both the planning and capital funding streams. *(INFC)*
- Launched in 2021, the [Active Transportation Fund](#) is providing \$400 million over five years to expand and enhance active transportation network across Canada in support of [Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy](#). *(INFC)*
- [Green Freight Program](#): Expanded and renamed in Budget 2022, the five-year program will help fleets reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The two streams are, ‘Assess and Retrofit’ stream which is open for continuous intake until March 31, 2027, and the ‘Repower and Replace’ stream that is accepting applications until November 16, 2023. *(NRCan)*
- [Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program](#): Since 2019 (ending March 2027), \$680 million has been provided to support towards the deployment of electric charging and hydrogen refuelling stations where Canadians live, work and play. The Indigenous led projects stream is open for continuous intake while the delivery organization intake is closed. An RFP will be launched in Spring 2024. *(NRCan)*
- [Education and Awareness Funding – Cleaner Transportation and Clean Fuels](#): funding for projects that address gaps in awareness, knowledge, and public and industry



confidence in zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) of all classes, lower-emission medium and heavy-duty vehicle options, and clean fuels. Applications are being accepted until September 26, 2023, and the Indigenous lead pilot stream is open until March 31, 2024. (NRCan)

- [Universal Broadband Fund](#) supports broadband projects across the country and is a key tool in [developing](#) high-speed internet across Canada, particularly in rural and remote communities. (ISED)

### **STRATEGIC FINANCE**

- [The Canada Infrastructure Bank](#): Announced during the Fall 2016 economic update, the CIB invests in revenue-generating infrastructure projects which benefit Canadians and attracts private capital. CIB priority sectors that align with this area include:
  - [Public Transit Priority Sector](#): The CIB works in close collaboration with public transit owners and service providers across the country to advance and bring private capital to green transit initiatives, including zero-emission buses (ZEBs), light rail transit, bus rapid transit, subways, transit-oriented development, etc. These commitments are part of the Bank's \$5 billion investment target for its Public Transit priority sector.
  - [Broadband Priority Sector](#) The CIB collaborates with the Universal Broadband Fund in support of large broadband projects, as part of its \$3 billion commitment.

### **STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICES**

- [The National Supply Chain Office](#) will work with private and public sector partners to drive coordinated improvements across the supply chain and take steps to improve resilience to disruptions and overall efficiency. (TC)

### 3. Expanding and Capitalizing on Clean Electricity

#### FUNDING PROGRAMS

- Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Research and Enhancement of Regulatory Capacity: [SMR Research and Incentive Grant](#): Announced in Budget 2022, \$120.6 million has been set aside over five years to support SMRs, which is being implemented through research initiatives such as the Enabling SMRs Program and to support the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission in enhancing regulatory capacity. The call for proposals closed August 31, 2023. (NRCan)
- [Electricity Predevelopment Program](#): Announced in Budget 2022, this \$250 million, four-year initiative aims to support pre-development activities for clean electricity projects that are of national significance, such as interprovincial electricity transmission and SMRs. (NRCan)
- [Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities](#) (CERRC): Launched in 2018, with \$220 million over 8 years CERRC funds renewable energy and capacity building projects, and related energy efficiency measures in Canadian Indigenous, rural, and remote communities to reduce the use of fossil fuels for heating and electricity by increasing the use of local renewable energy sources. In 2020, the Strengthened Climate Plan allocated an additional \$300 million for 2022 - 2027, to help Indigenous, rural, and remote communities transition off diesel to clean, reliable energy by 2030. Applications are being accepting, yet capacity building and deployment projects are fully allocated. (NRCan)
- [Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program](#) (SREPs): supports smart renewable electricity and electrical grid modernization projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the replacement of fossil-fuel generated electricity. \$964 million was announced in Budget 2021, and the program was recapitalized in 2022 with an additional \$600 million. The \$1.56 billion has been fully allocated and the program is not accepting applications. Budget 2023 announced an additional \$2.9 billion over 12 years to support regional priorities and Indigenous-led projects, and add transmission projects to the program's eligibility. Program expected to reopen in 2024. (NRCan)
- [Output-Based Pricing System Proceeds Fund – Future Electricity Fund](#) (FEF): supports clean electricity projects and/or programs in jurisdictions where the federal Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS) has applied or currently does, including Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The FEF is funded by proceeds collected from federal Output-Based Pricing System-covered electricity generating facilities and will be returned through funding agreements with federally regulated jurisdictions. (ECCC)

#### EXAMPLES OF INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS

##### ***Broad based investment tax measures aligned with clean growth objectives.***

- [Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit \(CT-ITC\)](#): The 2022 Fall Economic Statement announced a refundable investment tax credit of up to 30 per cent for eligible investments by businesses in certain electricity generation systems, stationary electricity storage systems that do not use fossil fuels in operation, low-carbon heat equipment, and industrial zero-emissions vehicles and related charging or refueling equipment. Budget 2023 further proposed to expand the eligibility of the CT-ITC to certain geothermal energy systems and to modify the phase-out to start in 2034 rather than in 2032. Labour requirements will need to be met to receive the maximum tax credit rates. Enabling legislation for the CT-ITC was introduced in Parliament on November 30, 2023. (FIN)

### **STRATEGIC FINANCE**

- [The Canada Infrastructure Bank](#): Announced during the Fall 2016 economic update, the CIB invests in revenue-generating infrastructure projects which benefit Canadians and attracts private capital. CIB priority sectors that align with this area include:
  - [Clean Power Priority Sector](#): Announced in Budget 2023, the CIB will invest at least \$20 billion from its existing funding envelope to support the building of major clean electricity and clean growth infrastructure projects. The CIB has been positioned as the government's primary financing tool for supporting clean electricity generation, transmission and storage projects.

### **STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICES**

- [Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities](#) (CERRC): A single-window approach (Hub) designed to reduce fossil fuel dependence in Indigenous, rural, and remote communities called [Wah-ila-toos](#), was established by several Federal Ministries. (NRCan)

#### 4. Community Economic Development

##### FUNDING PROGRAMS

- [Community Economic Development and Diversification \(CEDD\)\\*](#): CEDD supports economic development initiatives to help Prairies communities grow and diversify. The economic and employment benefits resulting from these activities should accrue primarily within the Prairies. The eligible activities include Community Development, Community Adjustment, and Inclusiveness. (*PrairiesCan*)
- [Union Training and Innovation Program](#) – Sustainable Jobs Stream: Announced in the 2022 Fall Economic Statement, this will support unions in leading the development of green skills training for workers in the trades. It is expected that 20,000 apprentices and journeypersons will benefit from this investment. (*Employment and Social Development Canada - ESDC*)
- [Labour Market Transfer Agreements](#) with Prairie provinces. Close to \$3 billion is transferred to provinces and territories to address local labour market and training needs and priorities annually. (*ESDC*)
- [Community Workforce Development Program \(CWDP\)](#): Announced in Budget 2021, CWDP is a three-year initiative to test community-based approaches to workforce planning and skills training to support local economic development and growth. The intake included national and regional priorities like de-carbonization and supporting a just transition. Calls for applications are closed. (*ESDC*)
- [Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program \(SWSP\)](#): Announced in Budget 2021 SWSP is a three-year initiative, to help key sectors of the economy to implement solutions to address their current and emerging workforce needs. Calls for applications are closed. (*ESDC*)
- [The Science and Technology Internship Program \(STIP\)](#) provides funding to employers across Canada to hire and mentor youth (ages 15-30) in the natural resources sector, including in energy, forest, mining, earth science, and clean technology. NRCan STIP-Green Jobs is part of the broader Government of Canada Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program. (*ISED*)
- [Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund](#): This \$1.4 billion, ten-year program supports projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by conserving, restoring, and enhancing forests, wetlands, peatlands, and grasslands to store and capture carbon. (*ECCC*)
- [Climate Change Adaptation Program \(CCAP\)](#): CCAP (\$42 million, 2022–2027) helps position Canada’s regions and sectors to adapt to a changing climate. The Program aims to 1) support decision-makers in identifying and implementing adaptation actions, 2) enhance adaptation knowledge and skills among Canada’s workforce, and 3) increase access to climate change adaptation tools and resources. (*NRCan*)
- [2 Billion Trees Program](#): This \$3.2 billion, ten-year initiative aims to support partnerships to plant two billion trees in order to capture and store carbon from the atmosphere, improve air and water quality, and help restore nature and biodiversity. (*NRCan*)
- [Canada Community-Building Fund \(CCBF\)](#): Is a legislated source of funding provided up front, twice-a-year, to provinces and territories, who in turn flow this funding to their municipalities to support local infrastructure priorities. Municipalities can pool, bank and borrow against this funding, providing significant financial flexibility. The CCBF delivers \$2.4 billion every year to 3600 communities across the country. In

recent years the funding has supported approximately 4000 projects each year. Communities select how best to direct the funds with the flexibility to make strategic investments across 19 different project categories. (INFC)

- [Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund](#) is providing over \$3 billion to support structural and natural infrastructure projects that increase community resilience and reduce the impact of natural disasters. (INFC)
- The [Natural Infrastructure Fund](#) (NIF) provides \$200 million for projects that use natural or hybrid approaches to protect the natural environment, support healthy and resilient communities, and contribute to economic growth and jobs. (INFC)
- The \$1.5 billion [Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program](#) is supporting green and accessible retrofits, repairs or upgrades of existing public community buildings and the construction of publicly-accessible community buildings that serve high-needs, underserved communities across Canada. (INFC)
- [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program \(ICIP\)](#): INFC is providing \$33 billion through bilateral agreements with provinces and territories to support public transit, green infrastructure, community, cultural and recreational infrastructure, and rural and northern infrastructure. All provincial funding was allocated as of March 31, 2023, and the territories have until March 31, 2025 to complete the submission of their eligible projects. (INFC)
- [Canada Digital Adoption Program \(CDAP\)](#): is a \$1.4 billion grant program to fund small and medium-sized businesses to improve their digital strategy by providing businesses with financing, tools, and resources to adopt e-commerce platforms and implement digital transformation plans. (ISED)

### **STRATEGIC FINANCE**

- [The Canada Infrastructure Bank](#): Announced during the Fall 2016 economic update, the CIB invests in revenue-generating infrastructure projects which benefit Canadians and attracts private capital. CIB priority sectors that align with this area include:
  - [Green Infrastructure Priority Sector](#): The CIB's commitment of \$10 billion as part of its Green Infrastructure priority sector works to support the building of clean growth infrastructure projects. The CIB works with a variety of project proponents to develop green infrastructure projects that will accelerate Canada's transition to a low-carbon economy, including electric and hydrogen refueling infrastructure; building energy retrofits; small modular reactors; clean fuel production; hydrogen production, transportation, and distribution; and carbon capture, utilization and storage. (CIB)

### **STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES AND SERVICES**

- [Prairies Business Service Network \(PBSN\)](#)\*: PSBN is a network of independent organizations that help Western Canadians start, grow, and expand their businesses. (PrairiesCan)
  - [Community Futures](#) (CFs): - CFs take a grassroots approach to community and economic development and are primarily focused on creating jobs outside major urban centers. There are 90 CFs across Western Canada. Each CF delivers a variety of services ranging from strategic economic planning, technical and advisory services to businesses, loans to small and medium-sized businesses, self-employment assistance programs, and services targeted to youth and entrepreneurs with disabilities.
  - [Small Business Services](#) (SBS) centers offer small businesses one-on-one advice to help entrepreneurs start and run a business. The SBS provide basic business

information and referrals; comprehensive information on federal, provincial/territorial government programs, financing, services, licenses and regulations; basic client training and education, including provision of intelligence/market research. Specialized support for immigrant and indigenous entrepreneurs are offered.

- [Sustainable Jobs Legislation, Plan, and Secretariat](#): These will establish the vision for and enable coordinated federal action to encourage growth in the net-zero economy, support workers and communities in the move to net-zero and support the creation of sustainable jobs. C-50, *Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act*, passed second reading in the House of Commons and was referred to Committee for further study this fall. (NRCan)
- [Sustainable Jobs Training Centre](#): Announced in the 2022 Fall Economic Statement, the Centre will bring together workers, unions, employers, and training institutions to examine the skills of the labour force today, forecast future skills requirements, and develop curriculum, micro-credentials, and on-site learning to help 15,000 workers upgrade or gain new skills for jobs in a low-carbon economy. It will focus on high demand areas, starting with the sustainable battery industry and low-carbon building and retrofits. (NRCan)
- [Upskilling for Industry Initiative](#): By fostering partnerships between employers and training providers, the Upskilling for Industry Initiative seeks to develop and deliver demand-driven short cycle upskilling programs to meet the skills needs of employers from high-growth industries by providing access to a competitive workforce. (ISED)
- [Future Skills Centre](#) (FSC): The FSC was established to address changes to the nature of work. It is a pan-Canadian, partnerships-driven initiative that supports research and solutions-based thinking on how employees and employers can succeed in an evolving labour market. Agriculture and sustainability are among FSC's thematic priorities. (ESDC)
- [Red Seal Program](#): Formally the Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program, it sets common standards to assess Canadian tradespeople skills. It works with industry stakeholders in the skilled trades to add "green" learning objectives to the national occupational standards for the Red Seal trades to improve climate literacy in the trades. (ESDC)
- [Rural Economic Development Strategy](#) sets out a framework for supporting rural Canadians, building rural communities, and working together better. Rural Canada's priorities will continue to evolve, reflecting their diversity and changing realities. No money is attached to this strategy, instead the Centre for Rural Economic Development, will ensure a continued focus on rural issues and support the Minister of Rural Economic Development through cross government collaboration, pathfinding and intelligence gathering/sharing. (ISED)

## 5. Economic Reconciliation and Inclusive Growth

### FUNDING PROGRAMS

*Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) offers a suite of economic programming targeting Indigenous communities and businesses which is aligned with sustainability objectives of the Framework. Supports range from project-specific to core capacity resources that support Indigenous peoples to develop capacity and participate in economic opportunities, some of which are consistent with sustainability objectives.*

- [Lands and Economic Development Services Program](#) (LEDSP): This program offers funding to support First Nations and Inuit communities with economic development, land, and environmental management. It supports the delivery of economic services such as community economic development planning, capacity development initiatives, and proposal development. The program is the result of a consolidation of 5 community-based economic and land management support programs in 2014. Budget 2022 provided \$150 million supporting community projects over 5 years (distributed between LEDSP and CORP). (ISC)
- [Community Opportunity Readiness Program](#) (CORP): CORP provides project-based funding for First Nation and Inuit communities to support the pursuit of economic opportunities. Supported activities include funding for opportunities which may provide community economic benefits, support the activation of a community's economic assets, support a community owned business where there is an equity gap, and providing business planning and advisory services. Budget 2022 provided \$150 million supporting community projects over 5 years (distributed between LEDSP and CORP) as well as \$35 million through LEDSP to build land and economic development capacity funding over 5 years. (ISC)
- [Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program](#) (AEP): AEP lowers barriers faced by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis entrepreneurs when seeking access to affordable capital. The AEP provides capital and business support services to entrepreneurs who apply for business financing. The program is managed by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) and funding is distributed through a network of Indigenous Financial Institutions. Budget 2021 provided \$42 million over 3 years to expand the AEP. (ISC)
- [Strategic Partnerships Initiative](#) (SPI): The SPI was created in 2010 with an annual budget of approximately \$16 million. SPI helps Indigenous communities participate in large, complex, multi-year economic opportunities that span a range of sectors and have regional economic impacts that can serve multiple communities. Flexible terms and conditions provide federal partners with a mechanism to coordinate efforts, pool resources, and reduce the administrative and reporting burden of recipients. This approach fills gaps in other funding programs that might create a barrier to Indigenous involvement in economic opportunities. SPI is administered by ISC but shared by a network of 22 federal partners. (ISC)

#### *Other Federal Programs:*

- [Indigenous Natural Resources Partnerships Program](#) Budget 2022 announced \$25 million over 5 years under the critical minerals stream of the dedicated to Indigenous communities' capacity building to support their participation in the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy. The program is currently closed and will reopen for application intake later. (NRCan)

- [Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda](#) - As announced in the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, Budget 2022 committed \$29.6 million over three years, starting in 2022-23, to advance an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda that will support self-determined action in addressing Indigenous Peoples' climate priorities. The funding will also support the phased implementation of distinctions-based climate strategies. (ECCC)
- [Low Carbon Economy Fund](#): supports projects that help reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions and generate clean growth. Under the fund, up to \$180 million is available through an Indigenous Leadership Fund, which supports clean energy and energy efficiency projects led by First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and organizations. (ECCC)
- [Participant Funding Program for Review of Environmental and Regulatory Processes](#): Funds to enable Indigenous groups to attend meetings, gather information on proposals, and inform decision makers. (*Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – CIRNAC*)
- [Indigenous Skills and Employment Training \(ISET\) Program](#): ISET is designed to help Indigenous people improve their skills and find employment. ISET provides funding to Indigenous service delivery organizations that design and deliver job training services to First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban/nonaffiliated Indigenous people in their communities. Agreement holders set their own priorities for programs and services and may include skills training for sectors that contribute to Canada's Climate Plan. (ESDC)
- [Skills and Partnership Fund \(SPF\)](#): As a complement to the ISET (above), the Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF) is a project-based fund that supports partnerships between Indigenous organizations and industry employers to provide skills training for Indigenous peoples linked to economic opportunities at the local, regional, and national level. Green Economy was a priority area in the 2022 Call for proposal. (ESDC)
- [2SLGBTQI+ Entrepreneurship Program](#): Provides help to address systemic barriers that 2SLGBTQI+ entrepreneurs face in starting and growing their businesses and to build a more inclusive economy, the Government of Canada is investing \$25 million in Canada's first-ever 2SLGBTQI+ Entrepreneurship Program. (ISED)
- [Black Entrepreneurship Program \(BEP\)](#): BEP is an investment of up to \$265 million, including \$130 million from the Business Development Bank of Canada over four years (starting in 2020-21) that will deliver a national approach to provide Black Entrepreneurs with improved access to ecosystem supports at the national and regional levels, loan capital, and to improve and enhance the data on Black entrepreneurship. (ISED)

### **STRATEGIC FINANCE**

- [The Canada Infrastructure Bank](#): Announced during the Fall 2016 economic update, the CIB invests in revenue-generating infrastructure projects which benefit Canadians and attracts private capital. CIB priority sectors that align with this area include:
  - At least \$1 billion invested in revenue-generating Indigenous infrastructure projects across its 5 priority sectors. As part of its [Indigenous Community Infrastructure Initiative](#) (ICII), the CIB provides low-cost, long-term loans to new infrastructure projects that are for the benefit of and in partnership with Indigenous communities. The CIB also provides loans to Indigenous communities to support them in purchasing equity stakes in infrastructure projects in which the Bank is also investing. (CIB)



- [Indigenous Growth Fund \(IGF\)](#): This Indigenous led fund was created in 2021 and is currently supported by federal investments of \$150 million, as well as a \$3 million private investment from Block inc. The Fund is managed by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) and is designed to increase access to capital through Indigenous Financial Institutions (IFIs) for Indigenous entrepreneurs. The Fund is an example of business, government, and Indigenous partners coming together to strengthen Indigenous economies and to offer institutional and social impact investors a vehicle for investment that will directly contribute to economic reconciliation.

### **STRATEGIES, INITIATIVES, AND SERVICES**

- [The Prairies Business Service Network \(PBSN\)\\*](#): Is a group of independent organizations that help Prairie Canadians start, grow, and expand their businesses, including specialized supports for diverse entrepreneurs. (*PrairiesCan*)
  - [Women’s Enterprise Initiative \(WEI\)](#): The WEI organizations in each of the prairie provinces help women entrepreneurs start, scale up and grow their businesses. These non-profit organizations provide a variety of unique products for women entrepreneurs, including business loans, business advisory services, training, networking opportunities, and referrals to complementary services.
  - [Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program \(EDP\)](#) provides business information, training, and development, mentoring and one-on-one counseling services for entrepreneurs with disabilities. In rural communities, the program is delivered through [Community Futures](#).
  - [Francophone Economic Development Organizations \(FEDOs\)](#) in the Prairies provide enhanced services to Francophone entrepreneurs such as training, business and community economic development, access to capital, information services, marketing advice, networking, and mentoring.
  - [Indigenous Business Development Services \(IBDS\)](#) provides early-stage entrepreneurship support for new and existing Indigenous entrepreneurs and business organizations throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.
- [Women’s Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub](#): provides up to \$8.62 million over three years to establish a Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub, to serve as a one-stop source of knowledge, data, and best practices for female entrepreneurs. (*ISED*)
- The [Alberta Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative \(AICEI\)\\*](#) helps First Nations and Métis communities to maximize their clean energy investments by proving funding assistance, identifying community’s priorities, exploring opportunities and partnerships, and developing capacity to lead clean energy projects. In 2022-23, PrairiesCan invested \$5.1 M, and SPI provided \$689,000 to support Indigenous-led projects related to renewable energy generation and energy efficiency. (*PrairiesCan*)

**\* Note:** Most Government of Canada programs are national in scope, but we have flagged specific programs or initiatives that focus on the Prairies