

Support for First Nations climate leadership

Applicant's Guide



Support for First Nations Climate Leadership

The FNQLSDI has been entrusted by the ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs with the mandate to support First Nations community projects to strengthen their leadership in the climate transition.

- **Funding available:** \$6.9 million by March 31, 2028.
- **Funded by:** action S2-050, supporting First Nations and Inuit climate leadership, from the implementation plan for the 2030 Plan for a Green Economy (“Soutenir le leadership climatique des Premières Nations et des Inuit”).
- **Eligible organizations:**
 - First Nations organizations (*with the exception of the Cree and Naskapi, who are engaged in a separate funding process with the provincial government*).
- **Project completion deadline:** Projects must be completed within 3 years of the agreement’s signing, but no later than March 31, 2031.

Need Support or Answers to Your Questions?

Our climate change team is here for you! Whether you have questions, want to explore a project idea, or need more in-depth support, we’re available at every stage:

- Preparing your project proposal
- Planning the implementation of your activities
- Supporting the realization of your project

Feel free to contact us, no matter where you are in the process.

 financement@iddpnql.ca Please include “Support for First Nations Climate Leadership” in the subject line of your email.

 **418-843-9999** — ask for Laura Normandin-Bellefeuille or Thomas Goudreault.

What are the Objectives of the Initiative?

This initiative will **support First Nations climate change projects**. More specifically, it aims to:

- Strengthen First Nations' leadership in the climate transition by supporting projects that address their needs and priorities
- Accelerate the climate transition of First Nations by increasing their resilience to the impacts of climate change and supporting their community-based projects focused on climate change adaptation or mitigation
- Promote capacity building and training on climate change within the framework of the funded project
- Promote the development of expertise and know-how in the field of climate change

Who is Eligible?

This funding opportunity is open to **First Nations organizations**.

To be eligible, an organization must:

Have been in operation for at least one year at the time of submitting its project proposal

Be an eligible First Nations organization

Eligible First Nations organizations are:

- communities and Nations recognized by Québec's National Assembly*
- regional commissions and organizations of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador
- tribal councils
- educational institutions
- health and social services institutions
- Indigenous nonprofit organizations, associations, or their equivalents **
- cooperatives, mutual aid societies, and businesses**

****With the exception of the Cree and Naskapi, as these Nations have separate agreements with the provincial government.***

*****Depending on their legal structure, eligible organizations must demonstrate at least 50% Indigenous control.***

For organizations that are not band councils, a **letter of support** from the community or communities affected by the project is required to demonstrate that it addresses a priority of the First Nation(s).

What Projects are Eligible?

To be eligible, projects must:

- Have a direct connection to First Nations' climate transition and address one or more of the following aspects:
 - climate change **adaptation**
 - climate change **mitigation**
 - **engagement, knowledge transfer**, and/or **outreach** on climate change
- Address a need identified as a priority by First Nations
- Build on the involvement of organizations and community members and focus on strengthening local capacity

Adaptation

All measures designed to limit the impacts of climate change or to take advantage of the benefits it brings.

Mitigation

All actions aimed at limiting climate change, primarily by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from sources and increasing removals by sinks.

Projects may include:

- Knowledge acquisition
- Capacity building
- Project planning
- Project development and implementation

Adaptation projects must consider the impacts of climate change already being felt and those anticipated in the future.

Mitigation projects must pay particular attention to assessing the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and must also meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Have a direct impact on reducing the community's or Nation's greenhouse gas emissions
- Have a direct impact on reducing the community's or Nation's energy consumption

If necessary, **you can contact us** to discuss these points.

Examples of Eligible Projects

Here are a few **examples of projects that have already been funded**:

- Monitoring climate data to understand the relationships between climate change and the territory, and adapting cultural practices accordingly
- Integrating climate risks into the emergency response plan, including risks related to wildfires
- Understanding the lobster-seagrass system in the context of climate change to support responsible fishing, by and for the community
- Developing agricultural practices adapted to climate change and creating a community-based cultural forest
- Organizing field trips and workshops in the community to strengthen youth climate leadership
- Developing a greening plan and integrating climate resilience principles into community development project planning
- Developing a community network to strengthen adaptation to climate change through reconnection with the land, permaculture, and culturally appropriate food systems

An organization may receive funding for more than one project, but only if the projects are distinct and provided it can demonstrate its ability to successfully complete each one. Projects that complement ongoing activities are eligible.

Projects are Ineligible if They:

- Involve recurrence
- Relate to the organization's regular activities or recurring activities
- Have already begun at the time of application submission, unless the application allows the project to enter a new phase or expand in scope
- Aim to establish a foundation or seek sponsorships

Budget

The budget available per project ranges from **\$50,000** to **\$500,000** over a 3-year period.

Financial support may cover **up to 100%** of the project's eligible expenses, unless the project is carried out by a for-profit entity. In that case, financial support may cover **up to 80%** of the project's eligible expenses.

A project may receive both direct and indirect financial support from departments, agencies, and Crown corporations of the governments of Quebec and Canada, but a project may not receive support from another program or initiative funded by the Electrification and Climate Change Fund.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

Eligible expenses are those directly related to and necessary for the completion of your project.

The Following are Eligible:

- Salaries and benefits (staff, interns, temporary employees, etc.)
- Scholarships awarded to students
- Professional fees*
- Transportation, meal, and accommodation expenses within Quebec, up to the **rates set by the National Joint Council (NJC)** in effect
- Expenses associated with workshops and community meetings
- Project-related communication and outreach expenses, including translation costs
- Expenses related to the development or acquisition of community or local facilities** that will remain in place at the end of the project.
 - For example: expenses related to the refurbishment of traditional trails (culverts), the development of community greenhouses for food security purposes, or the acquisition of clean technology such as solar panels
- Purchase or rental of specialized equipment for project implementation
 - For example: computers, tablets, first-aid kits, tools and instruments for fieldwork (drones, drills, protective gear), and vehicle rentals (helicopters, trucks, snowmobiles, and boats)
- Costs related to the acquisition of data, such as remote sensing imagery
- Administrative costs up to 10% of total eligible expenses
 - This includes, in particular: administrative management, IT, office space rental, office supplies, and Internet access

****If this category of expenses accounts for more than 40% of the total project budget, the application must clearly explain how community capacity-building will be implemented.***

*****The maximum portion of the grant that may be allocated to expenses related to the development or acquisition of facilities is 50% of the total project expenses submitted for funding, up to a maximum of \$250,000.***

The Following are Ineligible:

- Expenses incurred before the date the grant agreement is signed
- Expenses related to greenhouse gas emissions offsetting
- Capital expenditures for the acquisition of vehicles or watercraft (e.g., helicopters, trucks, snowmobiles, and boats), real estate or land, or for the renovation and maintenance of buildings
- Compensation for your organization's regular staff to carry out its day-to-day activities
- Communication, promotional, and administrative expenses related to your organization's day-to-day activities or general operations
- Entertainment expenses, donations, and sponsorships
- Expenses incurred to meet legal and regulatory requirements
- Taxes (GST/QST) that your organization can recover or claim as a refund from the government
- Any other expenses not directly related to the project

Project Timeline and Duration

Once a project is funded, project leaders have **3 years** to carry out the project. The last projects to be funded will be as of March 31, 2028, and will have until March 31, 2031, to be completed.

The project may begin, and related expenses may be incurred **starting on the date the financial grant agreement is signed** between the FNQLSDI and the organization responsible for the project. The obligations of the parties are also specified in this agreement.

Project Selection

A steering committee composed of members from the FNQLSDI and the MELCCFP will verify project eligibility (see page 4, "What Projects Are Eligible?"). Project review and selection will be conducted by an **independent committee** composed of members representing all eligible Nations. Proposals will be evaluated using an evaluation grid that incorporates the selection criteria (see Schedule A). If two proposals receive the same score, prioritization criteria (see Schedule B), previously determined by the selection committee, will be used. Otherwise, these prioritization criteria will not be considered as part of the evaluation grid.

Each organization that has submitted a project proposal will be contacted.

How to Submit a Project Proposal?

Deadline

November 12, 2026

Submission Process

1. Fill out the [project submission template](#) or use another format that works best for you. Regardless of the format you choose, be sure to answer the questions in the template.
 - a. We recommend submitting your project proposal in Word format, with a **maximum total length of 20 pages.**
2. Complete a [provisional budget](#).
3. Submit your project to our team via email at financement@iddpnql.ca (with “Support for First Nations Climate Leadership” in the subject line) no later than **November 12, 2026.**

Our team is available to answer your questions and provide support in drafting your project proposal.

Please note that your project proposal may be considered under another of our current or upcoming funding initiatives. If this is the case, our team will contact you to let you know.

SCHEDULE A

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria will guide the selection committee's analysis and evaluation of project proposals.

1. Coherence of the Project Proposal
☐ The context is clearly defined ☐ The objectives are relevant and realistic ☐ The selection criteria are met ☐ The provisional work plan, timeline, and budget are consistent and realistic
2. Project Deliverables, Outcomes, and Communications
☐ The deliverables are consistent with and realistic given the project's objectives ☐ The project's impacts are relevant to this funding initiative ☐ The project's communications and outreach are clearly defined
3. Link to Climate Change
The project addresses one (or more) of the following themes: ☐ The project supports climate change adaptation efforts ☐ The project supports climate change mitigation efforts ☐ The project mobilizes, facilitates knowledge transfer, and/or promotes the community's or organization's work on climate change
4. Community Priorities
☐ The project demonstrates that it addresses the needs and priorities of the community or First Nations ☐ For organizations that are not band councils, a letter of support from the community or communities targeted by the project is required to demonstrate that it addresses a priority of the First Nation(s)
5. Capacity Building and Participatory Approach
☐ The project demonstrates ownership by the organization or community leading the project ☐ The project demonstrates that it promotes capacity building among First Nations ☐ The project demonstrates a participatory approach, particularly through the involvement and mobilization of community or First Nations members
6. Valuing of Indigenous Knowledge and/or Languages
☐ The project demonstrates a commitment to valuing Indigenous knowledge and/or languages

SCHEDULE B

Prioritization Criteria

The prioritization criteria, chosen by the selection committee, will only be used to determine the ranking between projects in the event of a tie in scoring during the selection process.

The criteria, in order of priority, are as follows:

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| 1. Urgency of action: for example, depending on community needs, a project related to flood adaptation might take priority over a climate monitoring project. |
| 2. Type of applicant: Projects submitted by a band council from one of the 31 eligible First Nations communities will be prioritized. |
| 3. Capacity building: A project that places a strong emphasis on building local capacity will be prioritized. |
| 4. Collaboration among communities: A project that enables the sharing of knowledge or tools with other communities and/or benefits other communities and/or promotes better collaboration among communities will be prioritized. |



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