

First Nations Water Initiatives Fund

Applicant's Guide - Appendix I Project Examples



This annex provides examples of projects that can be submitted under the **First Nations Water Initiatives Fund**. These examples are provided to illustrate in a more concrete way the range of projects that can be submitted.

The examples are presented by orientation of the *Plan national de l'eau*. Your project must meet one or more of these orientations.

Please note that a community may submit Phase 1 under the **Local Initiatives** stream and Phase 2 under the **Structuring Initiatives** stream.

Is your project not listed in these examples? No problem, the possibilities are endless. Contact us at financement@iddpnql.ca and use “**First Nations Water Initiatives Fund**” as the email subject line. We will evaluate the possibilities together.

Orientation 1 - Ensuring Quality Water for the Population

This orientation focuses on drinking water.

Themes	Examples
Protecting drinking water sources	• Developing tools to inform and support community members with a residential well in adopting good practices. • Conducting vulnerability assessments and preparing development and protection plans for drinking water sources. • Documenting specific issues affecting the quality of drinking water and groundwater to propose appropriate protection measures.
Improved access to water of quality and in sufficient quantity	• Improving and monitoring the quality of water where traditional and/or recreational activities (swimming, boat rides, etc.) are carried out. • Reducing at the source non-domestic contaminants released into community systems used for water collection, transportation and treatment. • Acquiring knowledge and data on the community's groundwater and surface water through environmental monitoring.
Upgrading residential infrastructure* and improving practices in community infrastructure	• Modernizing wastewater management at the residential level. • Developing tools to support the modernization of wastewater management. • Ensuring the adoption of best design practices for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.
Agri-environmental shift and eco-responsibility of the industry	• Improving agri-environmental practices on cropland by the sea. • Promoting the adoption of pesticide-free methods to reduce their presence in waterways. • Analyzing the economic impacts generated by the implementation of certain good agri-environmental practices and developing compensation policies.

**The upgrading of community infrastructure is excluded from projects eligible under this Fund.*

Orientation 2 - Protecting and Restoring Aquatic Environments*

This orientation focuses on aquatic environments' fauna and flora.

Themes	Examples
Conserving and restoring aquatic environments	• Raising awareness among community members about the issues of traditionally valued species. • Strengthening capacity for wetland and water restoration and creation by developing and disseminating knowledge, expertise and tools. • Conducting local and regional projects and interventions aimed at the protection and conservation of lakes and rivers. • Implementing aquatic monitoring (water quality, fauna or flora).
Protecting aquatic species at risk	• Implementing a discussion circle on the conservation of aquatic species in precarious situation. • Ensuring the conservation of aquatic species at risk. • Implementing or monitoring aquatic environment restoration projects for aquatic species at risk.
Promoting the control of invasive alien species (IAS)	• Developing projects to effectively control IAS. • Conducting awareness activities on the cleaning of boats and fishing equipment to prevent the spread of IAS.

**The development of protected areas is excluded from projects eligible under this Fund.*

Orientation 3 - Preventing and Managing Water-Related Risks

This orientation focuses on water-related hazards, such as flooding, erosion and rainwater contamination of surface water.

Themes	Examples
Strengthening the integration of climate change into water-related risk management	• Conducting awareness-raising and communication actions with youth and other community members to strengthen understanding of flood zones and the functioning of watercourses in general. • Implementing sustainable rainwater management infrastructure at the source to improve rainwater drainage (e.g., rainwater barrels, rain gardens, filtering marshes, etc.). • Reducing the amount of runoff water, the speed at which it flows, and the pollutants it contains.
Improving tools for forecasting and preventing water-related risks	• Improving the safety of community members and property by better managing the risk of flooding. • Mapping areas of vulnerability to flooding and shoreline and coastal erosion.

Orientation 4 - Capitalizing on the Economic Potential of Water

This orientation focuses on the development of water-related activities, products, markets and/or technologies.

Themes	Examples
Developing sustainable economic sectors related to water	• Developing water-related tourism (e.g., touristic activities, creation of interpretation trails, etc.). • Developing fishing and processing for a traditional species that is not commercially valued.
Supporting the development of water-related technologies	• Developing research projects on marine biotechnologies. • Conducting engineering studies and investment projects to implement innovative and efficient solutions in factories to reduce the volumes of water consumed.
Promoting access to bodies of water and watercourses	• Highlighting cultural sites related to water in connection with tourism. • Improving access to water bodies for traditional activities such as fishing, hunting and gathering. • Monitoring water bodies related to tourism development.

Orientation 5 - Promoting Sustainable Water Use

This orientation focuses on behavioural changes and the adoption of good practices related to water.

Themes	Examples
Encouraging the development and adoption of good practices aimed at water conservation and sustainable use	• Developing and implementing awareness-raising measures as part of the Water Month (“Mois de l’eau”) in June (e.g., riverbank clean-ups, community awareness activities, promotion of traditional water-related activities, etc.). • Supporting the use of innovative technologies and techniques to improve the environmental performance of organizations and businesses in the community (e.g., companies owned by the band council). • Raising awareness among youth and community members about the protection and sustainable use of water.
Promoting the reduction of single-use plastics	• Promoting the use of water fountains rather than the consumption of bottled water. • Implementing a mobilization program for the reduction of water pollution by plastic.
Ensuring sustainable, equitable and efficient management of water resources exploitation	• Including climate forecasts, such as drought periods, in planning for the quantity of water available to community members. • Sharing knowledge and supporting community members and land managers through training and workshops to facilitate the use of water management tools and procedures. • Acquiring data on the state of water resources, characterizing aquifer and hydrological systems in watersheds and developing models for their management.
Promoting water professions	• Developing an awareness campaign on water professions aimed at youth. • Encouraging the arrival of the next generation by setting up internships with staff working in the water sector in the community.

Orientation 6 - Acquiring and Sharing the Best Knowledge About Water

This orientation focuses on knowledge and data on water quantity and quality.

Themes	Examples
Acquiring knowledge essential for the protection and management of water and aquatic environments, including for intergovernmental and international cooperation	- Improving general knowledge of lake and river water and groundwater, particularly through water quality monitoring. - Measuring the impact of human activities on water quality and aquatic environments (pesticides, microplastics, phosphorus, emerging contaminants, etc.). - Acquiring data and knowledge on groundwater.
Designing tools adapted to integrated water resources management and conducive to knowledge sharing and dissemination	- Sharing knowledge about flood risks and best practices to deal with them. - Developing and improving tools to support decision-making and to monitor the situation during floods.
Consolidating research and sharing of expertise in the field of water	- Organizing a fishing camp to collect fish data by combining traditional and scientific knowledge. - Conducting knowledge sharing and networking events (e.g., community sharing circle on water). - Supporting decision-making through research and development projects in the field of water.

Orientation 7 - Ensuring and Strengthening Integrated Water Resources Management

This orientation focuses on the mobilization and implementation of integrated water resources management.

Themes	Examples
Consolidating integrated water resources management in Quebec	- Supporting the participation of First Nations people in integrated water management and in regional consultation tables (“Tables de concertation regionals” or “TCR”). - Improving the monitoring of integrated water resources management. - Collaborating with watershed organizations (OBVs), which implement Water Master Plans (WMPs), and other stakeholders who conduct integrated watershed management.
Pursuing and strengthening intergovernmental and international cooperation to promote Indigenous interests and foster integrated water management	Ensuring the presence of First Nations people on various regional groups and forums related to watershed management.
Promoting land use planning from an integrated regional and watershed perspective	Implementing measures related to the protection of the land and its aquatic ecosystems.



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