



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien



## 2026- 2027 Indigenous Languages & Cultures Program Application Guidelines



**Application deadline: November 14, 2025, 11:59pm. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please submit to: [ilcfunding@kinu.ca](mailto:ilcfunding@kinu.ca).**

***\*\*For questions or help filling out your application, please contact Rebecca Barrington: 902-217-2688 or [becca@kinu.ca](mailto:becca@kinu.ca)\*\****

## **Objectives for the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program**

The objectives of the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program are to:

- Strengthen Indigenous cultural identity and participation in Canadian society; and
- Support the efforts of Indigenous Peoples to reclaim, revitalize, maintain and strengthen Indigenous languages and cultures.

## **Expected results for the Indigenous Languages Component**

- Indigenous communities have access to resources to deliver activities that incorporate Indigenous languages;
- Indigenous individuals and groups are engaged in activities that strengthen Indigenous languages; and
- Indigenous individuals and groups are engaged as an integral part of Canadian society and embrace and share their languages with other Canadians.

## **Guidelines for the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program**

- Projects must not exceed \$300,000
- Projects must aim to be spent in the 2026-2027 fiscal year
- All proposals must have an endorsement letter from the Mi'kmaw Community, preferably signed by Mi'kmaw leadership
- The focus will be on funding projects at the community level that prioritize community language work such as immersion classes, adult learning, developing language leaders and language nests

## **Who can apply**

To be eligible for funding, you must be a Canadian organization or group, democratically held and managed, and in good standing:

- Indigenous not-for-profit organization;
- Indigenous governing body i.e., a council, government or other entity that is authorized to act on behalf of an Indigenous group, community or people that holds rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982;
- Indigenous ad hoc committee that has been formed to do a specific project;
- For-profit Indigenous organization, provided that the project for which you are requesting funding will not result in income generation for your sole benefit;

- Indigenous-led institutions including accredited programs; and
- In exceptional circumstances to be approved by the program, non-Indigenous not-for-profit organizations, in close partnership with Indigenous organizations.

## **Eligibility**

We are responsible for determining the eligibility of each applicant, its project and project-related expenses. The Indigenous Languages Component's requests for funding typically exceed our available resources. If your organization or group is eligible, submitting an application does not guarantee funding.

## **Eligible activities**

To be eligible for funding from the Indigenous Languages Component, your project must include **community-based** activities such as:

- Cultural development;
- Language reclamation, promotion, revitalization, maintaining and strengthening;
- Capacity building; Conferences and gathering;
- Community engagement;
- Leadership development towards Indigenous languages;
- Life skills and wellness that incorporate learning of an Indigenous language;
- Production and broadcast of radio, television and programming;
- Innovation and new technologies;
- Consultation and coordination;
- Research, studies and community assessment

## **Eligible expenses**

Expenses for activities related to the objectives of the Indigenous Languages Component are eligible, these include:

- Salaries and employee benefits;
- In exceptional circumstances, stipends, allowances or honoraria for attendance in a course or activity;
- Travel expenses, which must not exceed the rates permitted as per travel on government business;
- Professional development and training programs;
- Meetings;
- Rent and utilities related to the activities;
- Translation and communications;
- Professional, consulting and Elders fees;
- Equipment rental, service and purchase;
- Costs associated with information technology, including purchase and upgrade of hardware and software;
- Start-up costs for Indigenous organizations whose mandate is to support the reclamation,

- revitalization, strengthening, and maintenance of Indigenous languages;
- Minor renovation in the context of promotional language activities;
- Project supplies and resource materials related to the activities;
- Photocopying and printing related to the activities;
- General liability insurance; and
- Administrative costs, such as: bookkeeping services, office supplies, telephone, fax, utilities, postage and courier fees, photocopying, printing, rent for office space, audit, legal, and translation.
- Administrative costs cannot exceed 15% of the total approved funding.

Eligible expenses must be held between April 1, 2026 and March 31, 2027. We cannot fund expenses incurred before the start date of your project. If you incur expenses for your project before receiving written confirmation of your funding approval, you will be doing so at your own risk.

### **Ineligible expenditures**

- Capital construction and major renovation;
- Salaries and honoraria for Board of members in the delivery of regular operations;
- Start-up and operational costs for commercial enterprises, and support for the development of cultural and professional industries; Contingency and miscellaneous fees; and Deficit recovery.

### **Limits of government assistance**

To ensure the success of your project, we encourage you to have other funding sources. This may include contributions from your organization or group, the private sector or other levels of government.

The total financial assistance received from the Indigenous Languages Component and other levels of government (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal) cannot exceed 100% of the total eligible project-related costs.

We can fund up to 100% of eligible expenses. Applications for the Indigenous Languages Component should generally not exceed \$300,000 per year.



## **How to apply**

Read these Application Guidelines in their entirety before completing your application. The same project should only be submitted once, by a single applicant or a delivery organization.

The application package can be found on our website, Kinu.ca. You must meet all eligibility requirements and submit a complete application package to be considered for funding. A complete application package includes the:

- Supporting documents required in the Application Checklist (Annex A);
- General Application Form (Annex B);
- Proposal (Annex C);
- Budget (Annex D).

## **Application process**

Only application packages submitted electronically will be considered for assessment.

- Complete, sign and date the General Application Form (Annex B);
- Complete the proposal and budget templates (Annexes C and D);
- Attach all the required supporting documents (Annex A); and
- Submit your complete application package to the following email address by November 14, 2025, 11:59pm: [ilcfunding@kinu.ca](mailto:ilcfunding@kinu.ca)

## **How applications are evaluated**

We fund activities that have clear objectives and measurable results. Your application will initially be assessed by Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey to ensure the eligibility of the application, according to the eligibility section above.

Eligible applications will then be evaluated, based on the evaluation criteria below through distinction-based Indigenous review processes, which will prioritize them in relation to the funds available. Failure to comply with any conditions of a previously funded project will be considered in the evaluation of your new application and could result in a rejection of your new application.

## **Evaluation criteria**

- The proposal demonstrates that its implementation would support the objectives of the Indigenous Languages Component;
- The proposal describes the activities to be funded;
- The proposal describes the expected results of the proposed activities;

- The proposal includes a budget that clearly links to the proposed activities;
- If applicable, the proposal discloses partners and the role that they will play in the project;
- The recipient commits to providing activity, evaluation, financial reports and other related information when requested
- Activities that strongly support reclaiming, revitalizing, maintaining, and strengthening Indigenous languages (e.g., mentor-apprentice programs, immersion, language nests, development of language plans); and
- Other priorities recommended by the Indigenous review processes (e.g., grassroots projects, demonstrated partnerships, language ambassadors, innovative projects, shareability)

## **Funding decisions**

We reserve the right to target funding to specific projects based on the priorities. Please note that decisions regarding eligibility and funding amounts are final.

## **How funding is provided**

We will determine if funding will be disbursed as a grant, as a contribution or as a fixed contribution. A grant is a payment issued to a recipient for a project. The conditions you agreed to at the time of application will apply. At the end of your project, you will be required to submit a report and/or participate in the evaluation of results.

A contribution is a conditional payment issued for a specific purpose, as outlined in a funding agreement. The agreement is signed by your organization or group and by Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey and specifies the terms and conditions to receive payment. At the end of your project, you must submit a final report.

A fixed contribution funding is an option to Indigenous recipients where eligibility criteria are met. The funding level is predetermined annually to meet program requirements and achieve the planned results. When planned results are achieved for less than the amount provided, fixed contribution funding allows the recipient to retain the unexpended funds, subject that all the contribution agreement conditions are met, including a plan on how the unexpended funding will be utilized.

## **Funding conditions**

You may be required to submit interim reports during your project. Additional conditions may apply and, if applicable, will be included in your funding agreement.

## **Workplace well-being**

The Government of Canada is strongly committed to promoting healthy workplaces where harassment, abuse and discrimination are not tolerated. Organizations that receive funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage must take measures to create a workplace free from harassment, abuse and discrimination.

## **Acknowledgement of financial assistance**

If you receive funding, you must publicly acknowledge the financial support received from the Government of Canada in all communications materials and promotional activities. Additional requirements may be included in your funding agreement. For additional information, please refer to our Guide on the public acknowledgement of financial support.

## **Access to information requests**

We are subject to the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act. The information you submit in your application may be disclosed in accordance with these Acts.

## **Disclosure of information**

By submitting your funding application, you authorize us to disclose any information submitted with this application within the Government of Canada or to outside entities for the following purposes:

- To reach a decision;
- To evaluate the results of the project; and
- To support transparency, accountability and citizen engagement.

## **Audits of recipients and evaluation of the Program**

We reserve the right to audit your accounts and records to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your funding agreement. We also conduct periodic program evaluations, during which you may be required to present documentation.

You must keep any records, documents, or other information that may be required to perform the audit or the evaluation for five years. Demonstrated failure to maintain such records may result in the repayment of amounts previously received

