



Otipêy Foundation

Media Backgrounder

About us

Otipêy Foundation is an Indigenous charitable foundation advancing Indigenous well-being through systems change. We combine deep cultural knowledge with practical tools to develop and test innovative financial models and impact measurement approaches that deliver measurable results for Indigenous communities.

Our work is grounded in research, capacity building, and meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities to co-design initiatives that reflect local priorities and support long-term, community-led impact.

Mission

To improve the well-being of Indigenous Peoples by researching and co-creating supportive financial solutions that centre the needs, traditions, and voices of Indigenous communities.

Vision

Thriving and sovereign Indigenous Peoples, communities and Nations, living in harmony with a healthy Mother Earth.

Why we exist

Indigenous communities continue to face barriers rooted in colonial policies and historic harms, affecting housing, health, economic opportunity, and overall well-being. At the same time, communities are leading solutions grounded in their own knowledge, culture, and priorities.

However, these solutions often lack access to flexible, long-term funding and the technical support needed to grow and scale. Traditional funding approaches are frequently fragmented, short-term, and not aligned with community priorities or outcomes.

Otipêy Foundation exists to help address this gap—by supporting the design of community-led initiatives and developing the financial and measurement frameworks needed to sustain them over the long term.

What we do

Otipêy Foundation is dedicated to advancing systems change to strengthen Indigenous well-being. We integrate innovative finance with research and capacity building and partner with Indigenous communities to co-design projects that address their unique local priorities.



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About our research

Our research identifies and scales systems-level approaches to strengthen Indigenous well-being and self-determination. By developing innovative social finance models, we provide the tools necessary for long-term, community-led transformation.

About our incubation program

Through our incubation program, Otipêy Foundation collaborates with Indigenous communities to structure co-designed initiatives that address local needs. These projects are deeply rooted in cultural values and lived experiences, ensuring they achieve measurable success and foster enduring systemic change.

We start with community challenges and priorities, then explore options, assess feasibility, and shape an initiative design that communities can lead and sustain. Next, we apply innovative social finance instruments and tools, including outcomes finance models, to connect initiatives to clear outcomes, measurement, and feasible economic models—so success is defined in real-world results, not just activities delivered.

Relationship to Otipêy

Otipêy Foundation and Otipêy are separate sister organizations that share a commitment to Indigenous self-determination and measurable community benefit. Otipêy Foundation focuses on analysis, research, incubation and impact measurement, working with Indigenous communities to co-design initiatives and the frameworks that support long-term systems change. Otipêy is an Indigenous-led investment platform that designs, builds and manages investment funds advancing Indigenous economic self-determination.

Media contact

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