FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL COUNCIL

Braided Knowledge Grant

Weaving B.C. First Nations' Knowledge Through Generations

2025 - 2026 Funding Guide

Application Deadline:
March 25, 2025 at 4:30 PM PT

Late proposals will not be considered.

Apply on our Grant Portal

Information Session

Date: February 27, 2025

Time: 11 AM PT

Register here

Please retain this Funding Guide in your files. If your application is approved, the policies and information contained in this guide will be a useful resource.

Braided Knowledge: Weaving B.C. First Nations' Knowledge Through Generations Grant has been made possible through the generous support of the Indigenous Knowledge Holders Fund of RSF Social Finance.

Note:

This document is optimized for accessibility purposes.

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Key steps:

- **Open the PDF:** Open your PDF file in Adobe Acrobat Reader.
- **Access the “Read Out Loud” option:** Go to the “View” menu at the top.
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FIRST PEOPLES' CULTURAL COUNCIL

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Introduction

First Peoples' Cultural Council

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) was established in 1990 through the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act and is mandated to support the revitalization of First Nations' languages, arts and cultures in British Columbia. FPCC is a unique Crown Corporation governed by a Board of up to 13 B.C. First Nations representatives. FPCC administers three programs: the Heritage Program, the Language Program and the Arts Program. The Heritage Program was established in 2019 to support the safeguarding, transmission and revitalization of Indigenous cultures and heritage. It focuses on the following three goals:

1. **Capacity**: Indigenous communities have the tools, training, staff and spaces to be stewards of their cultural heritage.
2. **Stewardship**: Indigenous communities have programs, funding and autonomy to be stewards of their cultural heritage.
3. **Leadership**: The rights of Indigenous Peoples' to be stewards of their cultural heritage is recognized and affirmed, and Indigenous expertise is valued.

Grant Overview

Grant Objective

The objective of the Braided Knowledge: Weaving B.C. First Nations' Knowledge Through Generations grant is to support projects that revitalize and focus on the wholistic and integrated nature of B.C. First Nations' arts, languages, and heritage. Funding support for arts, languages, and heritage has typically been siloed to each individual practice, yet these practices are interwoven and interdependent. This grant acknowledges the connections of these three areas and will facilitate projects that align with Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

The Braided Knowledge grant supports B.C. First Nation community projects that weave together their arts, languages, and heritage. With an emphasis on mentoring and apprenticeship, this grant helps ensure the protection, transmission, and intergenerational knowledge transfer of B.C. First Nations' languages, arts, and heritage.

Grant Description

Arts, languages, and cultural heritage are interwoven strands that underpin B.C. First Nations' cultures and worldviews. Indigenous wisdom and ways of being are embedded within language, art, and cultural practices, and connection to place and the protection of the land is expressed through stories and artistic practices and is encoded within language and legal traditions.

The Braided Knowledge grant is the first of its kind in Canada. It aims to support projects that demonstrate these interconnections, leading to outcomes that are essential to the revitalization of B.C. First Nation cultures.

An important element of the Braided Knowledge grant is the requirement for mentorship and knowledge transfer. Projects will enable the transfer of essential knowledge to new generations. Through this, the grant will support B.C. First Nation Peoples in reconnecting with their heritage and will build connections between generations.

Eligible Projects

Eligibility for this grant is purposefully broad, to allow for innovative and creative project proposals. Projects should weave together elements of arts, languages and heritage. Additionally, all projects must demonstrate a mentorship component*, in which cultural knowledge and practical skills are passed on from expert knowledge holders, fluent speakers, and artists to younger learners.

*Please note, mentorship/apprenticeship involves long-term learning opportunities that span the duration of the project.

Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Projects that link public art, storytelling, and cultural teachings.
- A place name project that incorporates language, cultural heritage information, storytelling and art.
- Apprenticeships and mentorships between Elders, knowledge keepers, and community members.
- Projects that demonstrate the relationship between stories, songs, place names, cultural heritage sites, and landscapes.
- Projects that develop tools and materials that will help safeguard B.C. First Nations' languages, arts and cultural heritage.

Grant Criteria

Eligible Applicants

Who is eligible to apply?

The FPCC Heritage Program supports projects by B.C. First Nations and B.C. First Nations-led organizations as per our legislated mandate. FPCC requires at least 75% of an organization's board members/directors to include individuals from B.C. First Nations as they are the rightful stewards of their cultural heritage and are best equipped to lead the important work of protecting, sharing and revitalizing B.C. First Nations Heritage on these lands.

Recognized B.C. First Nations and B.C.-based First Nations organizations that have a mandate or focus

that includes First Nations' heritage. Eligible applicants include:

- Recognized B.C. First Nations bands or Tribal Councils[1]
- Not-for-profit societies registered in B.C. in good standing and governed by B.C. First Nations individuals where at least 75% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations
- B.C. First Nations–led museums and cultural spaces where at least 75% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations
- Urban and off-reserve B.C. First Nations organizations where at least 75% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations
- B.C. First Nations schools or adult education centres operating in B.C. on First Nations lands.[2] Please note that applications from First Nations schools that serve one community must be submitted through their respective Nation or Band Office.

Additional heritage funding may be accessed through Heritage BC, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Vancouver Foundation, Telus Foundation and the Mastercard Foundation. If you have any questions about your eligibility, please contact bkg@fpcc.ca.

Eligibility Documentation

What kind of documentation is needed to confirm eligibility?

FPCC is committed to accountability and transparency in the delivery of funding to B.C. First Nations, as expressed in our mandate and vision. We welcome funding applications from organizations that are not recognized B.C. First Nations governments, provided they meet the eligibility guidelines outlined above.

FPCC Program staff may contact you to request some or all of the following information to accompany your application. This information will help us better understand your organization, its mandate, and how it operates, so that we can support you through the funding process. If requested, this information must be provided before a Funding Agreement can be issued.

- Societies and organizations may be asked to provide documentation confirming their legal name, and a list of the organization's current Board of Directors and/or governance structure. Please note that FPCC requires that at least 75% of members of Boards of Directors are members of recognized B.C. First Nations to be eligible for funding through FPCC grant programs.
- Registered societies may be asked to provide their certificate of good standing; certificate of registration; a copy of the organization's bylaws and constitution; and proof of insurance.
- FPCC values the collective gathering and sharing of resources. For projects in which oral history, intellectual properties, and cultural properties are gathered and/or shared, applicants may be asked to provide information that will demonstrate how the information or item will be gathered or obtained, and how ownership, copyright and intellectual and cultural properties rights will be recognized and upheld now and into the future.

[1] For a list of recognized B.C. First Nations, please see here

[2] FPCC is unable to fund K–12 classroom activities and related accredited programming.

Please note that first-time applicants will be required to provide the information listed above. Returning applicants may be required to update their eligibility documentation.

Ineligible Applicants

Who is not eligible to apply for this grant?

- Individuals and family groups
- Organizations or societies where less than 75% of Board members are members of a recognized B.C. First Nation
- Collectives or non-registered groups (this grant only accepts applications from registered societies)
- For-profit organizations and businesses, entities, individuals and commercial ventures
- Organizations or previous grant recipients with incomplete or outstanding reporting with FPCC or FPCF. These applicants are ineligible until all required documentation is complete.
- Government organizations, including municipalities
- Universities, colleges and non-B.C. First Nations schools
- Private clubs, groups and organizations with exclusive memberships
- Religious organizations
- Corporations

Collaboration is Encouraged

FPCC strongly encourages collaboration. Only one application (per grant program) per Band Office, Tribal Council or Society/Organization will be eligible for funding. If more than one application from the same Band Office, Tribal Council or Society/Organization is submitted, the Peer Review Committee will decide which proposal will receive funding, so it is strongly advised that applicants collaborate and submit one unified proposal. This demonstrates that there is support and consensus for the proposed project, as well as being inclusive and designed with long-term goals in mind.

General Requirements

Applications will not be reviewed unless all necessary information is provided. Applicants must submit completed applications that include the following:

- A balanced project **budget** with detailed descriptions and cost breakdowns for each category
- A thorough **workplan** with dates for key activities
- A full consideration of the potential **risks and mitigation** strategies for the project

- A project **timeline** that fits within the BKG funding term (June 2, 2025 to May 29, 2026)
- Proof of **additional confirmed funding** for the project, if applicable. Examples include funding agreements and letters from other funders, donors, and in-kind contributions.
- **Letters of Support:** FPCC requires two types of support letters: Governance Approval Letters and Community Support Letters. All letters of support must be dated and signed on official letterhead. There are slightly different requirements for letters of support for Bands and societies/non- profits applying for FPCC grants. Please carefully follow the instructions below to ensure that your application includes the correct letters of support.

Governance Approval Letter

Upload one of the following, depending on whether you are applying as a Band or as a Society/non-profit:

- **For Bands:** a dated and signed Band Council Resolution OR a letter of approval dated and signed by a B.C. First Nation Chief, Band Manager, and/or a member of Council.
- **For Societies/non-profits:** a dated and signed letter of approval from the Executive Director or General Manager.

Community Support Letter

Upload one or more of the following, depending on whether you are applying as a Band or as a Society/non-profit.

- **For Bands:** The letter of support can be from a project participant (who will not receive financial benefit from the project), a collaborating community/organization or a person of high standing in the community. It should not be from the Chief, a member of Council, the Band Manager, or a signing authority of the applicant organization, as they will be indicating their support through the letter of governance approval.

Please note, the Governance Approval letter and the Community Support letter cannot be from the same person.

- **For Societies/non-profits,** FPCC requires **TWO** letters of community support.

1. One letter of support from a project participant (who will not receive financial benefit from the project), a collaborating community or organization, or a person of high standing in the community. **AND**
2. One letter of support from a B.C. First Nation in the territory where the project is proposed and that shares the same language as the proposed project. This letter of support may be in the form of a Band Council Resolution, OR a letter from a Chief or Council member OR a letter from an established B.C. First Nations organization operating in the location(s) where the project is proposed and who is currently an FPCC grant recipient.

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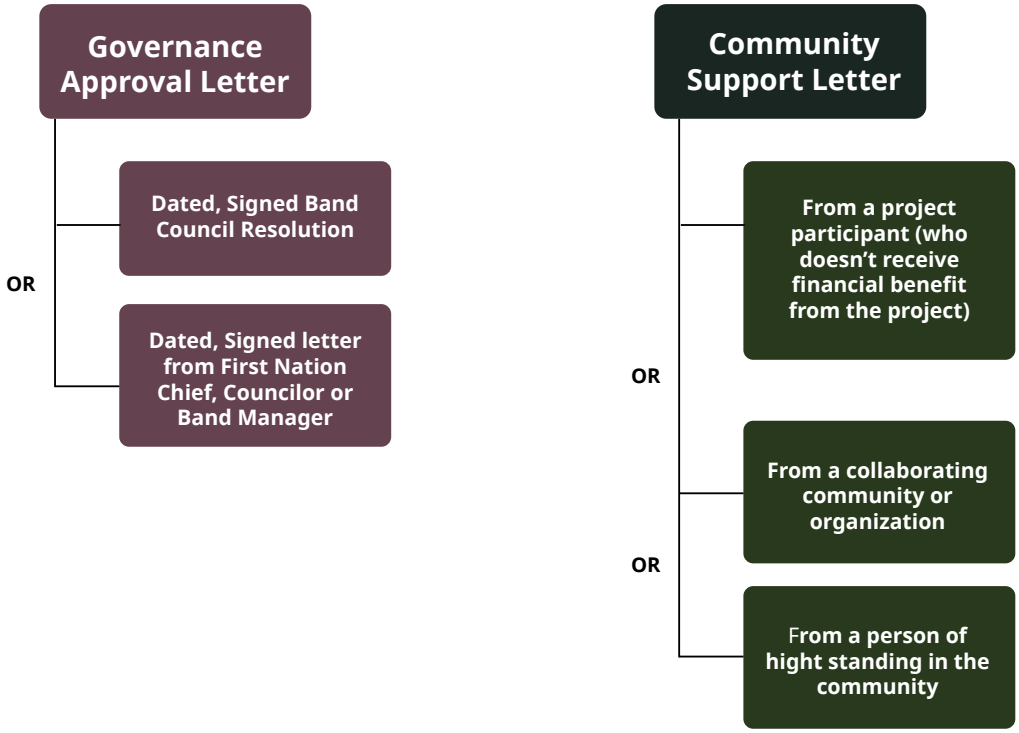
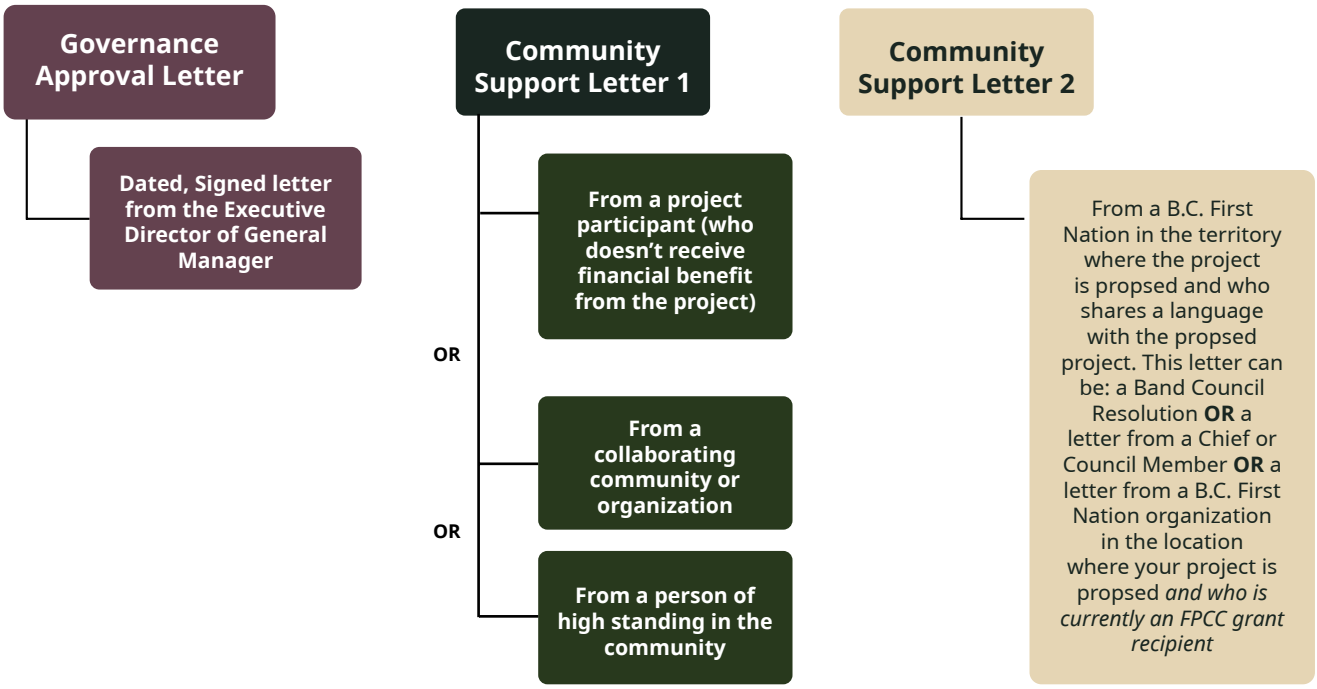
If you are applying as a **B.C. First Nation Band**, you must include **ONE** Governance Approval Letter and **ONE** Community Support Letter



If you are applying as a **society or non-profit**, you must include **ONE** Governance Approval Letter and **TWO** Community Support Letter



Liability Insurance and Certification

For projects with a hazard of potential personal injury or bodily harm due to high-risk project related activities, please provide FPCC with copies of the following:

- Comprehensive insurance for at least $2 million
- Adequate certification and licencing if operating a motorcycle, Off Road Vehicle, large truck or bus, trailer, snowmobile, boat, or other equipment
- Valid driver's licence(s) of operators of a motorcycle, off-road vehicle, large truck or bus, trailer, or boat
- Any other information reasonably requested by FPCC related to safety and/or liability issues.

If your project is approved, FPCC will follow up to request these documents on conditional acceptance of the project. We will need these documents for the final approval of the project and before a funding agreement can be issued.

Projects using vehicles are expected to carry and maintain Third Party Liability insurance on all vehicles owned, operated or licensed in the name of the project/grant recipient in an amount not less than $1,000,000.00. This documentation should be available to FPCC, if requested.

It is recommended that anyone operating an ATV receive ATV Rider Training by Canadian Safety Council (CSC) certified instructors. This documentation should be available to FPCC, if requested.

High-Risk Physical Activities
Probable high-risk project activities may include, but are not limited to, using ATVs, horses, trailers, boats, helicopters, heavy equipment, activities on or near the water, or activities that involve camping in remote areas, risks of large animal encounters, excavation, scaffolding and ladders, or construction. If you are unsure if your project is high risk and would require additional insurances, certification and licensing, please contact the bkg@fpcc.ca to discuss further.

Application Deadline

When is the application deadline?

March 25, 2025, at 4:30 PM PT.

Applications must be completed and submitted by the deadline on FPCC's Grant Portal. We cannot accept faxed or emailed applications.

Applications and proposals will only be discussed with the contacts listed/identified in the application. Staff are available to support you with your application and answer questions. If you require assistance with your application or would like to request a review of your application with feedback from staff, please email bkg@fpcc.ca at least two weeks before the deadline.

Information session: February 27, 2025, at 11 AM PT
Register here: Braided Knowledge Grant Info Session

Funding

Funding Amounts

Applicants can apply for between $10,000 and $25,000 for their proposed project. There are no expectations or requirements for cost-sharing, however, if your project is dependent on other funding sources, we require proof of confirmed funding. Any project costs that exceed the grant amount will be the responsibility of the applicant.

Funding Term

The funding term for the Braided Knowledge grant is as follows:

- Project activities to begin on or after: **June 2, 2025**[3]
- Interim report due by **November 28, 2025**
- Projects completed by **May 29, 2026**
- Final report due by **May 29, 2026**
- All funds must be expended by **May 29, 2026**

Funding Installments

- **80% of funding:** upon application approval and receipt of signed funding agreement
- **20% of funding:** upon completion of project and approval (acceptance) of a final report with budget

Expenses

Eligible Expenses

Project costs must be direct and essential to the project. Costs will be reviewed to determine if they are reasonable and have been accurately estimated.

- **Salaries and wages** must be specific to the project and described in the Project Team Worksheet and the Workplan Worksheet.
- **Honoraria** must be specific to the project and described in the Project Team Worksheet and the Workplan Worksheet ($150 to $250/half day and from $300 to $500/full day, depending on the activities and protocols; rates above these amounts must be covered by the applicant organization).

[3] FPCC strives to deliver funds as early as possible in the funding term, but this may be delayed by various factors, including applicants' delays in submitting prior year reports and/or in signing the Funding Agreement.

- **Contractors and consultants** may be hired if a project requires special skills. Contractor/consultants costs may not exceed 30% of the funding requested. Funding recipients must show they have made best efforts to hire an Indigenous contractor or provide justification for why a non-Indigenous contractor was hired. Indigenous contractors/consultants will be prioritized. A written quote must be provided with the grant application for contractor costs budgeted over $1,000.
- **Equipment rentals and purchases,** including computers and recording devices, up to 20% of the funding requested.
- **Administration costs,** up to 15% of the funding requested
- **Software or apps** needed to achieve the project's objectives
- **Meeting and event space rentals,** necessary to achieve the project's objectives
- **Materials and supplies** required to support project work
- **Food and hospitality,** reasonable and necessary costs only
- **Travel and transportation,** reasonable and necessary costs only

Ineligible Expenses

- Expenses incurred before the BKG funding term begins (June 2, 2025)
- Board members, if applicable, may not receive any payment from grant funding.
- Accumulated deficits, annual operating losses or debt
- Costs for political events, rallies and demonstrations
- Expenses exceeding maximum allowable percentages or caps, as described above, or expenses that are not necessary to project activities
- For-profit business development costs
- Capital purchases such as vehicles or costs associated with building or land improvements
- Expenses related to established, or active annual community celebrations or anniversaries, such as powwows, that would occur without funding from the BKG
- Travel and project activities that take place outside of B.C. If you have questions about expenses related to cross-provincial travel, please contact bkg@fpcc.ca
- Activities or gatherings unrelated to the proposed project
- Activities that take place in or involve public schools or public institutions
- Activities that do not comply with current provincial COVID-19 guidelines

Adjudication Process

- Submitting a proposal does not guarantee funding.
- FPCC staff are available to support you with your application and answer any questions you may have. Please reach out to bkg@fpcc.ca.

- Applications will be reviewed and evaluated for completeness and clarity.
- Funds available to this program are limited. Projects that demonstrate urgency to safeguard heritage will receive priority.
- FPCC strives to distribute funding across all regions of B.C., and equitable distribution is considered during application review and decision-making.
- A Peer Review Committee (PRC) will review and assess eligible proposals according to the program objectives, the feasibility of the timeline and the budget presented.
- After the submission deadline, please do not contact staff regarding the status of your application. All applicants will be advised of PRC decisions approximately eight weeks after the application deadline.

Reporting Requirements

If a project is approved, the applicant will receive a **funding agreement** that sets out the terms of the funding and the reporting requirements. This agreement must be signed by the project lead and the signing authority outlined in the application.

Grant recipients must submit an **interim report,** which includes a description of project activities carried out to date, outcomes, and challenges encountered, as well as an update on the project budget.

The **final report,** which is due at the conclusion of the grant cycle, includes questions about project activities, deliverables, reflections on what worked well, and challenges encountered. The report also requests numerical data about the project team and participants and the number of cultural activities supported through the grant, as well as a final accounting of funds spent throughout the project.

The project interim and final reports will be available for applicants to fill out on FPCC's Grant Portal and must be submitted by **November 28, 2025,** and **May 29, 2026,** respectively.