



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL



Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP)

2026 - 2027 Funding Guide



Information Webinar

📅 Wednesday August 27th, 2025

🕒 12:00-1:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

Application Deadline:
Wednesday, October 1st, 2025

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

Note:

This document is optimized for accessibility purposes.

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- **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.
- **Activate Read Out Loud:** Select “Read Out Loud” and choose whether to read the entire document or just the current page.



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Introduction

The goal of the Mentor-Apprentice Program is to support the development of fluent speakers of B.C. First Nations languages.

This is a one-on-one language immersion program in the home and on the land and waters. A “mentor” (a fluent speaker of a language) is paired with an “apprentice” (learner). The mentor and apprentice spend 300 hours per year together doing everyday activities while using the language. This program is valuable for any language, especially where only a couple of fluent speakers are left. The apprentice will learn and share their teachings with family and community members. In this program, learners become more fluent.

This program is made possible with funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage as a result of the Government of Canada’s Indigenous Languages Act, and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation through the Province of British Columbia.

For useful information on the program, including the [Mentor-Apprentice Program Handbook](#) and other resources, please visit the FPCC website at: <https://fpcc.ca/program/mentor-apprentice-program/>

Direct your inquiries to:

Aurora Skala , Language Programs Coordinator	
Mailing Address	1A Boat Ramp Road Brentwood Bay, B.C. V8M 1N9
Telephone	(250) 652-5952
Email	map@fpcc.ca

A phone or virtual appointment can be booked with one of the program staff using the following link: [MAP Online Booking Page](#)

The MAP Program staff are available Monday – Friday during regular business hours.

A Note on Health and Wellness

Tcwemstwallhkálap - “you folks take care of one another” in Ucwalmícwts

The health and safety of everyone involved in FPCC programs, especially Elders and those with health concerns, is of the utmost importance to us. As you plan your project, please take extra care during cold and flu season to minimize the spread of illness. Following these guidelines will help us take care of one another and keep each other safe.

FPCC staff are here to assist program participants with unexpected and unplanned changes because of COVID-19 impacts on programs. We will do our best to share information and respond to changes together. If you have any questions, please contact program staff.

Program Details

Program Overview and Eligibility

The Mentor-Apprentice Program is for B.C. First Nations individuals ages 16 – 50 years old. B.C. First Nations individuals, status or non-status, residing on- or off-reserve in B.C., will be considered for MAP. To prioritize Indigenous learners, non-Indigenous applicants are not eligible for funding through the Program, regardless of community affiliation. Priority will be given to apprentices with a demonstrated commitment to share the language with others beyond the program.

An apprentice may apply with more than one mentor (to a maximum of three mentors), with the hours being split between mentors. Mentors can have one apprentice within the MAP Program. This ensures our Elders and language speakers have the time and energy to support the apprentice, alongside their other commitments. Please note the funding total will remain the same regardless of the number of mentors.

Eligibility

The apprentice must be:

- From a B.C. First Nation and living in B.C.
- Age 16-50
- Demonstrates commitment to share the language with others
- Applying with 1-3 fluent speaker as a mentor(s)

Immersion Hours

The Mentor-Apprentice Program hours are to be completed in a one-on-one language immersion setting that allows the apprentice to work at their own pace and gives the mentor the opportunity to provide context-specific instruction and feedback. MAP Training provides examples of activities and best practices for completing these hours. As MAP hours are completed regularly, it works best if the mentor lives no more than 30-60 minutes from the apprentice.

MAP hours cannot be completed in a classroom setting, during school hours, or within the daily activities of a language nest. These activities are not eligible for funding through the Mentor-Apprentice Program. While these settings provide valuable language-learning opportunities, they may inhibit the MAP team from achieving the depth of language learning that is otherwise possible in a one-on-one setting.

Program Training and Ongoing Support

MAP in-person regional Orientation Workshops 2026:

Teams will be invited to register in January 2026 in the training nearest to them.

- Friday April 17th – Sunday April 19th, 2026
- Friday May 22nd – Sunday May 24th, 2026
- Friday June 4th – Sunday June 7th, 2026

Accommodation, travel and food grants will be provided (following FPCC Travel Guidelines).

Attendance is required for all teams.

To create a strong ability to learn language and succeed in the program, we offer these supports:

- One-on-one coaching throughout the year with a MAP coach who is a graduate of the program
- Monthly optional drop-in online webinars and peer support
- Mandatory in-person orientation workshop
- Workshop materials

Reporting

Language Learning Assessment Tool	100-hour Reports	Final Report
This is for apprentices to self-assess their language learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 completed before beginning hours • 1 after 300-hour report 	These are completed after every 100 hours completed, up to 300 hours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100-hour Report Due September 1 • 200-hour Report Due December 1 • 300-hour Report Due March 1 After every 100 hours apprentices arrange a presentation of learning to 3 fluent speakers in their community and report on the presentation in the 100-hour report.	This report is only completed after the program hours are complete.

Funding Details

Funding Term

The Mentor-Apprentice Program term begins April 2026 and concludes in March 2027. Mentor-Apprentice teams are invited to begin their MAP hours after completing the mandatory MAP training held in May or June 2026.

Apprentices who have completed 300 hours and meet all program requirements will be invited to re-apply for another year, up to three years, subject to available funding.

MAP Grant Total

The total amount per team is **\$21,000**, plus an additional travel grant to cover travel and accommodation expenses for the Mentor-Apprentice team to attend the mandatory workshop.

- \$7,500 for the apprentice hours
- \$12,000 for mentor hours
- \$1,500 for panel evaluations

Teams with more than one mentor will split their hours with their mentors; the total grant amount will not exceed \$21,000.

The Grant is paid in installments after each 100 hours of immersion are completed.

After each 100 hours of immersion	
100 apprentice hours \$25 x 100 hours	\$2,500
100 mentor hours \$40 x 100 hours	\$4,000
3 panel evaluation members \$150 x 3, plus \$50 for refreshments	\$500
Total per 100 hours	\$7,000
Total per year (300 hours max.)	\$21,000

Applying

Applications created and submitted through the FPCC Grant Portal (fpcc.smartsimple.ca)

Once logged in, find the Mentor-Apprentice Program Application, and follow the steps there. Please refer to the criteria below:

Application Assessment Criteria

The following are the criteria used by the Peer Review Committee in prioritizing applications for this program.

1. Letter of Intent

Strong applicants demonstrate a commitment to their language that extends beyond this program

- Has the Apprentice demonstrated a commitment to learning?
- Do the Mentor and Apprentice live within a reasonable distance of each other, or will significant travel time (45 minutes+) be required for them to meet in person?
- Is the Apprentice in the Youth Category (16-35 years-old)?
- Have they carefully considered the time commitment required?
- Does the Apprentice have the motivation and time to complete the hours and to complete the reports?

2. Community Letter of Support

Applications must include one **letter of support** from the community for the team.

- This letter is ideally written by a respected community member.
- It is better to ask someone who is not closely related to the mentor and apprentice (i.e., not a spouse or immediate family member) to write this letter.
- Letter should speak to the strength of the relationship between the mentor and the apprentice or probable success of the team in meeting their goals.

3. Resumes & Biographies

Applications must include one resume and biography from the apprentice. A biography from the mentor must also be included. Applicants could include information on cultural knowledge or previous engagement with their language, and outline any community-based, academic, or professional experiences.

- Is the Mentor a fluent speaker? If not, please explain what their language proficiency is, and why the apprentice is choosing them as a Mentor (for example, there are no fluent speakers living near them, so they are applying with an intermediate speaker as their Mentor).
- Include your involvement with the language, and any learning or work experience you have

4. Language Learning Goals

- Does the Apprentice demonstrate an understanding of the MAP method and purpose?
- What are the Apprentice's short- and long-term goals for language?
- Do the proposed activities align with the Apprentice's long-term goals for language?
- Has the Apprentice identified specific language outcomes to be achieved through this grant?

5. Specific intentions to pass on the language

This program aims to renew the intergenerational transmission of the language. Strong applicants demonstrate a clear commitment to pass the language on to family members, children, and/or other community members.

- Does the Apprentice demonstrate a specific plan for sharing language?
- Is the Apprentice a teacher or ECE (Early Childhood Education) worker?
- Are there young children in the home who will benefit from increased language exposure?

6. Schedule

- Does the schedule meet the hours per month requirement (35-40 hours per month)?
- Is the schedule balanced (sessions should not be too short or too long)?
- Does the schedule match the lifestyles of the Mentor and the Apprentice, is it realistic?
- Does the schedule match the activities they are planning (e.g., land-based activities need to occur during daylight hours, not in the evenings)?
- Does their current work schedule allow for their learning schedule? The Mentor-Apprentice Program requires a significant commitment of time. In many cases, it is best if the applicants plan to take some time off from their work or other commitments in order to complete the hours.

7. Past and current community involvement

Strong applicants demonstrate involvement in their community, through language projects, cultural events, or other initiatives.

- Has the Apprentice had prior language-learning experience?
- Has the Apprentice demonstrated a commitment to contributing to the language revitalization work in the community?
- Has the Apprentice demonstrated a commitment to their community?

Application Deadline

The application must be submitted by October 1st, 2025.

Please submit your application online via the FPCC Grant Portal (fpcc.smartsimple.ca).

MAP Application Support

If you wish to receive feedback on your application, please submit your application two weeks prior to the closing deadline (**October 1, 2025**) and reach out requesting feedback. FPCC Language Program staff will provide feedback on your application so that you may revise and resubmit before the final deadline.

Submit requests for feedback to: map@fpcc.ca

Application Review Process

1. **Applications are Reviewed in October 2025.** Applications will be reviewed by FPCC staff and may be reviewed by an external review committee with experience in language revitalization. The review process includes pre-screening for eligibility as well as an in-depth review for program fit and suitability

- 2. Applicants are notified** about their application status in October or November 2025. Shortlisted applicants are offered a conditional acceptance and must complete a few additional steps (see below) before being accepted into the program. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified about the reason they were not accepted and offered feedback on how to strengthen their application.

Shortlisted Applicants

Applicants with strong applications are shortlisted. This is a conditional acceptance. Shortlisted applicants will be accepted into the program once they complete the following:

Dates may be subject to change, tentative dates:

1. Fill out the Language Learning Assessment Tool, by November 4th, 2025
2. Complete Personal Information Forms, by November 4th, 2025
3. Sign the Funding Agreement by November 24th, 2025
4. Register for and attend MAP Training with your mentor (due date TBD, early 2026)

Note: the above due dates may be subject to change.

Detailed instructions will be sent to applicants who make the shortlist. Applicants whose applications are not accepted will be sent an explanation of why, and recommendations if they wish to apply in the future.

We look forward to supporting you with your language journey! If you have any questions about your application, we are here to help. Please reach out to us via email at map@fpcc.ca or via the main office phone at 250-652-5952.