

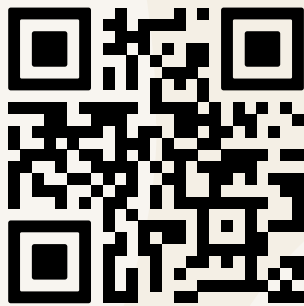


FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL



Cultural Practices Grant

2026-27 Funding Guide



Information Webinar

📅 November 20, 2025

🕒 2:00 p.m. PT

[Register Here](#)

Application Deadline:

December 12, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. PT
Late proposals will not be considered.

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:** Click the “Menu” at the top left corner and in the drop down select “View” > “Read out loud” > “Activate read out loud”.
- **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

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 and one representative of the Province of B.C. FPCC administers three funding 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.

A Note on Health and Wellness

Tcwemstwal lhkál ap ("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.

Program Overview

B.C. First Nations' cultural practices, and the intangible heritage values they embody, are expressions of living heritage and are integral to a community's health, wellbeing, safety and vitality. The Cultural Practices Grant (CPG) supports B.C. First Nations in planning, carrying out and documenting community-based cultural practices and events that affirm identities, foster a sense of belonging, and celebrate the roles, relationships and responsibilities within a community. This grant was made possible because of the advocacy and leadership of an Indigenous matriarch, knowledge keeper and leader in B.C. who provided recommendations for funding to support this important work in B.C. First Nation communities.

Activities and practices supported through this grant may include celebrations and honouring children and youth, seasonal or celestial activities and events, knowledge gathering and transfer, reawakening of cultural places and the traditions associated with them, projects that involve repatriation, and other culturally important practices that are held by communities. These may be cultural practices that have been continuously carried out over generations, as well as "sleeping" practices that a community wants to reawaken.

For more than a century, these types of cultural practices and the traditional knowledge and values they are rooted in have been disrupted by colonial policies and laws that displaced people from their lands and disconnected family and community life, impacts that are particularly hard on women and children. The reawakening of these traditions is one way that B.C. First Nations are taking action against the gender-based violence that disproportionately affects Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people.

Please review these guidelines carefully before starting your application. Applications are submitted on the First Peoples' Cultural Council's (FPCC) Grant Portal: <https://fpcc.smartsimple.ca>

The Cultural Practices Grant is funded by the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation through a Canada-British Columbia bilateral agreement as part of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Support for the Cultural Practices Grant furthers the ongoing work under Safe and Supported: B.C.'s Gender-Based Violence Action Plan.

Grant Objectives

The objectives of the CPG are to:

1. Support revitalizing, recognizing and strengthening of cultural practices.
2. Support and facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer.
3. Support activities and practices that affirm identities, foster a sense of belonging, and celebrate roles and relationships within a community.
4. Support cultural practices that promote collective safety and wellbeing within and for B.C. First Nations. This includes physical safety within communities and on the land, as well as the cultural and spiritual safety of those participating in project activities.
5. Support First Nations cultural practices as a way to prevent and heal from gender-based violence.

Eligible Projects

Activities and events supported through this grant reflect shared cultural values within a community and Nation. Support from the community/cultural group and guidance and leadership from Elders and cultural advisors with recognized roles within the community are essential to ensuring projects are carried out in a safe, respectful and proper way. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how their proposed projects have support from the wider community, and that the people leading project activities hold existing community-recognized roles that align with the proposed activity.

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

- Community-led naming and baby welcoming events .
- Events and practices that honour people with important roles within the community (Elders, hunters, fishers, spiritual leaders, political leaders, language speakers, etc.).
- Gatherings and events focusing on modeling safe, healthy relationships and preparing children and youth for the future.
- Welcoming and reconnecting programs for youth and adults who have not had the opportunity to participate yet.
- The development of kinship programs to welcome or prepare new or returning community members.
- Welcoming and reconnecting programs supporting off-reserve and/or urban Indigenous youth to travel to B.C. First Nation communities.
- Celebrations for pole raisings, house panel installations and other similar events¹.
- Cultural performances that signify rites of passage (e.g., dance, song, storytelling).
- Traditional harvesting celebrations or events².
- The creation, restoration, or reactivation of cultural Belongings important to cultural practices. This could include regalia, blankets, masks, drums, ochre and other belongings, and could also include repatriated Belongings.
- Working with Elders, knowledge holders and/or cultural advisors to record oral histories, protocols, laws, and stories about cultural practices and events.
- Developing teaching tools around cultural practices for use by and for B.C. First Nations youth programs, communities and First Nations schools.
- Storytelling projects to document cultural practices.
- Projects that support cultural survival practices, such as cultural practices around food sovereignty.

If you are interested in undertaking an activity not on this list of examples, please reach out to us at cpg@fpcc.ca and we can discuss how your project could fit into the grant program's areas of focus.

¹ This grant cannot fund infrastructure projects, so the installation of carved poles, house panels and other infrastructure is not eligible. However, events to recognize or honour these structures are eligible.

² For safety reasons, FPCC cannot fund activities involving use of firearms (e.g., hunting camps); however, events recognizing hunters (e.g., first deer celebration) are eligible.

Disclaimer

This grant is not intended for sacred, private or individual ceremonies. FPCC understands cultural practices are unique and diverse across B.C. First Nations and are often not meant to be shared. Therefore, the reporting on this grant will not require details on specific activities and cultural practices.

If you apply for this grant, you are expected to demonstrate in your application and Letters of Support how your project will respect and uphold the protocols and legal practices of your culture and traditions, as held collectively by your Nation. You will also be asked to confirm that you are the rightful knowledge holder, or have the appropriate permissions to document or share the cultural practices that are the focus of your project.

Training and Mentorship

Projects funded through the CPG **must include a training and/or mentorship component.** This supports the grant objectives of revitalizing and strengthening of cultural practices and facilitating intergenerational knowledge transfer. Teachers and mentors must be recognized within the community as the appropriate people to train and mentor others in project activities. Likewise, the people receiving training and mentorship must also have the support of the community to receive this training.

Ineligible Projects

Activities that are not eligible for funding under this program include:

1. Infrastructure projects
2. Projects with a very high risk to health and safety³, including but not limited to projects that have a primary focus or primary activities that include:
 - Use of firearms (e.g., hunting camps)
 - Fire (e.g., cultural burning)
 - Extreme heat (e.g., sweat lodges)
3. Projects where youth would be unsupervised
4. Projects that involve private, sensitive, confidential or sacred ceremonies, information or practices that cannot be shared outside families or clan groups⁴

³ If you are unsure if your proposed project involves high risk health and safety activities, please reach out to us at: cpg@fpcc.ca

⁴ Note: FPCC will not be collecting information on ceremonies or oral histories. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how the proposed project is supported by the B.C. First Nation community and how the information/intellectual property will be managed in the community, in terms of ownership, control, access and possession. See [The First Nations Principles of OCAP®](#)

Grant Criteria

Eligible Applicants

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 65% 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 their 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 Councils⁵.
- Not-for-profit societies registered in B.C. in good standing and governed by B.C. First Nations individuals where at least 65% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations.
- B.C. First Nations-led museums and cultural spaces where at least 65% of directors are from recognized B.C. First Nations.
- Urban and off-reserve B.C. First Nations organizations where at least 65% 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.⁶ 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 cpg@fpcc.ca.

Eligibility Documentation

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.

⁵ For a list of recognized B.C. First Nations, please see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/consulting-with-first-nations/first-nations-negotiations/first-nations-a-z-listing>

⁶ FPCC is unable to fund K-12 classroom activities or post-secondary accredited courses or tuition.

- 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 65% 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.

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.

Applicant organizations must have a bank account to receive funds, as we are unable to issue funds to individuals for organizational grants.

Ineligible Applicants

- Individuals and family groups.
- Organizations or societies where less than 65% 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 and economic development corporations.
- 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 CPG application from the same Band Office, Tribal Council or society is submitted, the Peer Review Committee will only review one proposal, 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 CPG funding term (Feb 27, 2026 - April 2, 2027.)
- 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 one letter of support from a B.C. First Nation in the territory where the project is proposed and that shares the same First Nations language as the society submitting the application. 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. Additional letters of support from other organizations or individuals may also be uploaded.

Liability Insurance and Certification

The applicant organization is responsible for holding and maintaining all insurance covering risks associated with project activities for the project team and participants, including but not limited to:

- Comprehensive/Commercial General Liability in an amount not less than \$2,000,000.00 inclusive per occurrence, insuring against bodily injury, personal injury and property damage
- 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.

Other examples of insurance and certification that may apply to your project include:

- 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) operators of a motorcycles, Off Road Vehicles, large trucks or buses, trailers, or boats.
- It is recommended that anyone operating an ATV receive ATV Rider Training by Canadian Safety Council (CSC) certified instructors.
- Necessary WorkSafe BC compliance documents and, before starting work on certain types of construction projects, e.g., a project over \$100,000, submit a Notice of Project to WSBC.

If your project is approved, all applicable insurance and certification 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 water, or activities that involve camping in remote areas, risks of large animal encounters, excavation, scaffolding and ladders, or construction. It is the responsibility of grant recipients to ensure that they have adequate insurance, certifications and training.

Criminal Record Checks

The Criminal Records Review Act makes a criminal record check mandatory for anyone who works with children. The act defines a "child" as an individual under 19 years of age. In the act, "works with children" means "working with children directly or having or potentially having unsupervised access to children in the ordinary course of employment or the practice of an occupation."

In consideration of the above, grant applicants and recipients for projects that involve children under the age of 19 will:

- Comply with all requirements of the act.
- Ensure all current and new employees, directors, volunteers, contractors and others under its control comply with the act, including those who have previously completed a criminal records review check.
- Maintain and make available documentation to FPCC upon request, to demonstrate that the criminal record check requirement has been met.

Application Deadline

December 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. 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 cpg@fpcc.ca at least two weeks before the deadline.

Information Session

November 20, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. PT

To support 2026 applicants, we will be hosting an online information webinar on November 20, 2025, 2:00 p.m. to give you the opportunity to ask questions and review how to fill out the application. [Click here](#) to register in advance.

Funding Amount

Applicants can apply for **between \$10,000 and \$25,000** for projects under the CPG. 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 CPG program is as follows:

- Project activities to begin on or after **February 27, 2026**.
- Interim report due by **October 5, 2026**.
- Projects completed by **April 2, 2027**.
- Final report due by **April 2, 2027**.

Funding Installments

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

Expenses

Eligible Expenses

Project costs must be directly applied 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).
- **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** to support project work, up to 20% for projects that do not involve a research or documenting focus, and up to 80% for projects focused on research and documenting.
- **Administration costs**, up to 15% of the funding requested.
- **Software or apps** necessary to achieve the project's objectives.
- **Meeting and event space rentals**, necessary to achieve the project's objectives.
- **Materials and supplies**, including safety equipment, recording equipment and meeting supplies required to support project work.
- **Food and hospitality**, reasonable and necessary costs only.
- **Travel / transportation**, reasonable and necessary costs only.
- **Other costs** not listed here, with prior approval from FPCC. Please reach out to cpg@fpcc.ca.

Ineligible Expenses

- Expenses incurred before the CPG funding term begins (February 27, 2026).
- 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.
- Activities or gatherings unrelated to the proposed project.
- Activities that do not comply with current provincial COVID-19 guidelines.

Adjudication and Funding 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 cpg@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, share knowledge across generations and support cultural heritage practices as a way to foster safe, healthy communities 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) of Indigenous heritage experts 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 8 - 10 weeks after the application deadline.
- Successful applicants are required to sign a funding agreement. Funding agreements require a signature from the primary contact/project lead listed in the application and an applicant organization signing authority, if different from the primary contact/project lead.
- Please note that funding agreements are time sensitive. If the funding agreement is not signed within 4 weeks of delivery, the grant may be forfeited to ensure the funds are reallocated and spent within the fiscal year.

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 signing authority outlined in the application.

Grant recipients are expected to 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 data about the project team and participants, the location where activities 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 complete on FPCC's [Grant Portal](#) and must be submitted by **October 5, 2026, and April 2, 2027, respectively**.

Application Support: If you wish to receive feedback on your application, please submit your application two weeks prior to the closing deadline (December 12, 2025) and reach out requesting feedback. FPCC Heritage Program staff will provide feedback on your application so that you may revise and resubmit before the final deadline. Submit requests for feedback to: cpg@fpcc.ca