



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL





Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP)

2027-28 Funding Guide



Q&A Session

 Wednesday, September 3, 2026

 12:00-1:00 p.m. PT

[Register Here](#)

Application Deadline:

Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. PT

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.

How To Use The PDF Audio Reader?

Desktop

If you would like to use an audio reader for this PDF on a PC, open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat Reader, navigate to the “View” menu and select “Read Out Loud” to activate the text-to-speech feature, allowing the document to be read aloud to you; you can choose to read the entire document or just the current page depending on your preference.

Key steps:

- **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.

Mobile phone

Please use your mobile settings to convert text to speech for a PDF. Below is a link on how to change the settings in your devices.

iOS devices - [click here](#)

Android/Google devices - [click here](#)

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.

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Introduction

The Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) supports the revitalization of B.C. First Nations languages by fostering fluent speakers through one-on-one immersion.

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

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 and resources to include in your Mentor-Apprentice home-based learning, click on the links below:

[Mentor-Apprentice Handbook](#)

[Mentor-Apprentice Program Page](#)

[Mentor-Apprentice Digital Toolkit](#)

Direct your inquiries to:

Aurora Skala , Language Programs Coordinator	
Mailing Address	1164-B Stellys Cross Road Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1H3
Telephone	(250) 652-5952 extension 209
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.

Program Details

Program Overview and Eligibility

The Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) is intended for B.C. First Nations individuals ages 16–50 years old residing in B.C. Those who are status or non-status, and identify as a B.C. First Nation person, whether living on or off reserve in B.C., will be considered for MAP. To prioritize B.C. First Nations language learners, non-Indigenous applicants are not eligible for funding from FPCC, 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 can partner with one to three Mentors, splitting their program hours across the group. Mentors can work with one apprentice in either the MAP/MAPC or YES Program to ensure they have time and energy to support them. This ensures our Elders and language speakers have the time and energy to support the apprentice, alongside their other commitments. Occasionally, the committee reviewing applications will make an exception and allow a mentor to be on multiple grants as long as the person's total grant hours do not exceed 400 hours. These exceptions are generally made when the mentor is the only, or one of the only, fluent speakers across all adult immersion program streams in a community where multiple learners wish to apprentice.

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) adult immersion programs (MAP/MAPC) are not meant to replace employment. The honoraria helps with costs that might prevent someone from participating (for example, childcare, driving costs or leaving work early). Additionally, the honoraria are meant to encourage the team and acknowledge the time they spend in the program.

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.
- Learning one of the [36 First Nations languages in B.C.](#) funded by FPCC.
- Age 16-50.
- Demonstrates a 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 focused instruction and feedback. The in-person regional orientation workshop, which successful applicants will be invited to later in the year, provides examples of activities and best practices that are proven to work for completing these hours. It is recommended that the mentor lives no more than 30-60 minutes from the apprentice.

Mentor-Apprentice 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 MAP. While these settings provide valuable language-learning opportunities, they may inhibit the Mentor and Apprentice team from achieving the depth of language learning that is otherwise possible in a one-on-one setting.

Program Workshops and Ongoing Support

MAP in-person regional Orientation Workshops tentative 2027 dates:

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

- Friday April 30th, 2027 - Sunday May 2nd, 2027
- Friday May 14th, 2027 - Sunday May 16th, 2027
- Friday May 28th, 2027 - Sunday May 30th, 2027
- Friday June 11th, 2027 - Sunday June 13th, 2027

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

Attendance is required for all teams.

We offer the following supports to create a strong ability to learn language and succeed in the program:

- 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
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 <p>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. (FPCC staff will assist applicants if they have questions about who to list for this).</p>

Funding Details

Funding Term

The Mentor-Apprentice Program term begins April 2027 and concludes March 1, 2028. Mentor-Apprentice teams are invited to begin their MAP hours after completing the mandatory MAP workshop held in May or June 2027.

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.

Funding Availability

Funding for the MAP program in 2027-28 is dependent on confirmation of funding from FPCC's funders. Submission and acceptance of a grant application does not guarantee funding in this program. FPCC will make every effort to confirm funding for the 2027-28 year as early as possible to support all approved applicants, but please be prepared for delays in the funding confirmation and delivery process.

We recognize that language revitalization requires long-term, sustainable funding. FPCC continues to advocate for guaranteed, ongoing funding from all levels of government and we are looking forward to that becoming a reality in the near future. At this time, the MAP program can only offer funding for one program year, but we invite applicants to reapply for additional years of the program.

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 apprentice hours.
- \$12,000 for mentor hours.
- \$1,500 for panel.

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.

Note: All grant recipients, Mentors and Apprentice, will be issued their payments as grants. As grants are considered taxable income, all grant recipients will receive a T4A form at the end of the calendar year.

After each 100 hours of immersion	
100 apprentice hours \$25 x 100 hours	\$2,500.00
100 mentor hours \$40 x 100 hours	\$4,000.00
3 panel members \$150 x 3, <i>plus</i> \$50 for refreshments	\$500.00
Total per 100 hours	\$7,000.00
Total per year (300 hours max.)	\$21,000.00

Applying

Applications created and submitted through the [FPCG Grant Portal](#).

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 during the application review 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 (16-50 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.
- The 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 15, 2026, 4:30 p.m.

MAP Application Support

Please contact us with any questions about your application. We provide support up to the **October 15, 2026** deadline, but for a detailed one-on-one review, please reach out by October 1, 2026. FPCC Language Program staff will do their best to support you so you can revise and submit your application before the final deadline.

Submit requests for feedback to: map@fpcc.ca

Please submit your application online via the [FPCC Grant Portal](#).

Application Review Process

1. **Applications are Reviewed in October 2026.** 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 2026. 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. Detailed instructions will be sent to applicants who make the shortlist. 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 4, 2026.
2. Complete Personal Information Forms, by November 4, 2026.
3. Sign the Funding Agreement by November 24, 2026.
4. Register for and attend MAP Training with your mentor (due date TBD, likely early 2027).

Note: the above due dates may be subject to change, if adjusted, you will be notified.

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.