



# National

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## Call for proposals: Supporting Indigenous engagement and participation in clean energy and infrastructure for critical minerals

On October 6, the Government of Canada [announced the launch of a call for proposals](#) for the [Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund \(CMIF\) Indigenous Grants stream](#), with up to \$3 million available in total funding for Indigenous organizations or non-Indigenous organizations working in partnership with Indigenous communities.

The [CMIF Indigenous Grants stream](#) was established to provide Indigenous groups with resources necessary to actively engage on, participate in, and benefit from critical minerals development. Grant amounts available for organizations are up to \$150,000, with up to \$200,000 for initiatives supporting Indigenous organizations located in northern or remote communities.

**Applications for this call for proposals must be submitted by December 17, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. PT.** To learn more about this funding opportunity, visit [Natural Resources Canada's](#) website.

## Education Partnerships Program

The 2026 to 2027 call for proposals for the Partnerships and Structural Readiness components of the [Education Partnerships Program](#) is now open. This program supports collaboration between First Nations, provincial and territorial ministries or departments of education and Indigenous Services Canada, and capacity development and enhancement of First Nations organizations to deliver education, including establishing education systems and service delivery agreements responsive to First Nations students and community education needs.

The deadline to submit a proposal for the Partnerships and Structural Readiness components is **December 19, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. PT.** For more information, including [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit the [Education Partnerships Program](#) page.

## Prime Minister's Awards 2026 – Celebrate an inspiring educator!

Do you know an outstanding educator or teacher? Honour their impact by [nominating them for the 2026 Prime Minister's Award](#) by **January 14, 2026**. These awards recognize innovative teaching practices and teachers who make a lasting difference in their communities.

Indigenous Services Canada is proud to highlight the essential role of educators in Indigenous communities, recognizing their contributions to education and reconciliation. Whether you are a student, parent, colleague or community member, submit a nomination for an educator or teacher who has positively influenced others.

Nominate an outstanding candidate today!

- [Nominate and early childhood educator](#)
- [Nominate a teacher](#)

Help us highlight the contributions of those who make a real difference. Together, let's celebrate the impact of education on future generations.

**HELP IS AVAILABLE  
WHENEVER YOU  
NEED IT.**

**Immediate support is available 24/7  
for all Indigenous people in Canada.**

Hope for Wellness Help Line and Chat  
**1-855-242-3310 or [www.hopeforwellness.ca](http://www.hopeforwellness.ca)**

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line  
**1-866-925-4419**

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
and Girls Support Line  
**1-844-413-6649**

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### [Free materials on the risks of frequent cannabis use on mental health](#)

According to Health Canada's [2024 Canadian Cannabis Survey](#), young adults aged 20 to 24 were more likely to report consuming cannabis daily compared to other age groups. Some people may choose to use cannabis to relax or cope, but it can actually make things worse. Daily or near daily use can increase symptoms of anxiety or depression and can harm memory and attention span.

You can help young adults protect their mental health and brain function and provide them with ways to lower their risks. Access [a toolkit](#) for free digital and printable educational materials such as a [poster](#), [social media content](#), and [videos](#) featuring stories of people's lived experiences with cannabis use and its impact on their mental health.

More information on how cannabis can affect mental health and brain function and how to lower the risks can also be found [here](#). Visit our [digital toolkit](#) for free public education resources on: cannabis poisoning in children, cannabis educational programs for youth, and cannabis and mental health.

### [New digital pilot makes registration application process faster for eligible First Nations](#)

Indigenous Services Canada has [launched the first phase](#) of a faster, easier way for First Nations individuals to [apply for registration](#) under the Indian Act at in-person service locations. Under the new pilot, entitled children 15 years old or younger will be able to complete their registration application digitally during in-person visits at service locations across the country. This new process will streamline appointments, reducing the time required per application by at least half while relieving pressure on the entire system.

The pilot is currently live at the service locations in Gatineau, Quebec; Amherst, Nova Scotia; and Edmonton, Alberta, and will expand to all other points of service across the country at a later date. This next step uses the Digital Application Services (DAS), an innovative platform launched in 2022 that offers faster digital solutions for secure status card applications and renewals. The DAS has proven to be cost-effective and significantly reduced application wait times by streamlining the process for applicants—cutting appointment durations and enabling faster delivery of [secure status cards](#).

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).



### [Respiratory Illness Communications Toolkit](#)

As we prepare for the upcoming season, the Public Health Agency of Canada has developed an updated [Respiratory Illness Communications Toolkit](#), that is designed to support your outreach efforts and help promote key public health messages.

[Download the toolkit!](#)

## Regional

### 2025 wildfire Disaster Financial Assistance program to support impacted communities

On October 1, 2025, the Province of Manitoba announced the launch the 2025 wildfire [Disaster Financial Assistance \(DFA\) program](#) to help municipalities recover from the devastating impacts of this year's unprecedented wildfire season. The DFA program will provide financial support for actions undertaken by municipalities and local authorities that have either been directly impacted or have incurred significant costs while hosting evacuees, including:

- pre-emptive preparation efforts
- emergency response operations
- recovery and restoration activities
- relief and recovery support
- long-term wildfire mitigation strategies

**The deadline to request Disaster Financial Assistance is November 30, 2025.** For more information on [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit the [news release](#).

### New 24-7 safe space for Indigenous women

On October 2, 2025, the Manitoba government announced \$3.5 million to [Ikwe Widdjiitiwin Inc.](#) to establish a first-of-its-kind 24-7 safe space for Indigenous women in Winnipeg. The [Mino'Ayaawag Ikwewag lodge](#) will provide immediate, short-term safety and stabilization for Indigenous women at risk of violence, homelessness or exploitation. It will provide low-barrier access to culturally safe crisis support including counselling and cultural wellness spaces, mobile transportation, a crisis response line and a short term safe space with 8 private bedrooms with a kitchen and dining space.

The initiative responds directly to the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the 231 Calls for Justice](#) by providing culturally safe, trauma-informed supports for Indigenous women and girls in Winnipeg. This investment is part of the Manitoba government's commitment to new 24-7 safe spaces for Indigenous women and girls in Manitoba.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

### More than \$1.2 million in community development projects for northern Manitoba

On October 8, 2025, the Manitoba government is providing more than \$1.2 million to support 21 community development projects in northern Manitoba through the [From the Ground Up - Safe Healthy Communities for ALL](#) program. The program provides grants up to \$100,000 for community renewal initiatives and community spaces, and up to \$50,000 for its children and youth stream.

Launched in 2024, From the Ground Up – Safe Healthy Communities for ALL focuses on community-led response and revitalization efforts, including capacity building, wellness and safety, economic development, social inclusion, housing co-ordination and youth initiatives.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).

### Manitoba protects Indigenous languages with new teaching degree programs

On October 20, the Province of Manitoba, is protecting Indigenous languages with more than \$4.5 million to support new Indigenous language degree programs at the [University of Winnipeg](#) and [University College of the North](#) (UCN). The University of Winnipeg will be provided with \$2.3 million to establish a bachelor of arts in Indigenous language immersion in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe). At the University College of the North, \$1.49 million for capital costs has been provided to retrofit the UCN campus space into a new Centre for Aboriginal Languages and Culture with \$759,000 to support program operations.

These programs support the implementation of the [Public Schools Amendment Act](#) (Indigenous Languages of Instruction) by helping bring Indigenous languages into Manitoba classrooms from kindergarten through post-secondary education. Both programs are anticipated to begin in January 2026 with intake opening now.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#).