

INFO BULLETIN

INFORMATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

National

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Sectoral Workforce Innovation Fund

On August 28, 2026, the Government of Canada announced the new [Sectoral Workforce Innovation Fund \(SWIF\)](#), which will support projects that respond to pressing skilled labour shortages across Canada's priority sectors. Each project can seek up to \$10 million in funding and must be no more than 36 months in duration.

Projects funded through the SWIF could include faster training approaches, micro-credentials, skills assessments, targeted certification programs and other creative solutions. These projects will help Canadian workers prepare for in-demand occupations while helping employers address ongoing skilled labour shortages.

Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to: Indigenous organizations, including band councils, tribal councils, self- government entities and not-for-profit organizations.

For more information, please visit the [news release](#) and [Sectoral Workforce Innovation Fund](#).

Fifth annual progress report on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

On August 28, 2026, the Government of Canada tabled the [Fifth annual progress report on implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(UN Declaration Act\)](#), fulfilling a key legislative requirement under the Act. The report highlights progress made on measures identified in the [UN Declaration Act Action Plan](#), which was developed in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

The report draws on contributions from more than 45 federal departments and agencies, as well as perspectives shared by over 70 First Nations, Inuit and Métis nations, organizations and governments.

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

Women's Economic and Leadership Opportunities Fund 2026

On July 8, 2026, the Government of Canada [announced a call for proposals to support projects that remove barriers and increase access to women's economic and leadership opportunities](#) across Canada. Women continue to be underrepresented in senior leadership positions and in high-paying, high-growth sectors such as STEM, skilled trades, and emerging industries.

Through this call for proposals, the federal government is investing \$100 million in projects that help women and girls succeed. Funding will support initiatives that expand leadership opportunities, increase women's participation in sectors where they remain underrepresented, and help women develop the skills and opportunities needed to thrive in an increasingly AI-driven economy.

Funding will be prioritized for women's organizations and Indigenous women's organizations. **The deadline for submitting proposals is September 15, 2026, at 12 p.m. Pacific time.**

For more information on [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit [Women and Gender Equality Canada's website](#).

**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

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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New Fiscal Relationship grant

First Nations, Tribal Councils and First Nations-led organizations can submit an expression of interest for the New Fiscal Relationship grant. This funding mechanism offers greater flexibility to design and deliver programs, and long-term, predictable funding to support planning for community priorities.

Submit an expression of interest by September 30.

Learn more about [eligibility](#) and the [application process](#) by visiting [New Fiscal Relationship grant](#).

Canada invites organizations to apply for funding to help persons with disabilities access benefits

On August 19, 2026, the Government of Canada announced a call for proposals under the [Disability Benefits Navigation \(DBN\) program](#). A total of \$9.3 million is available, and eligible applicants can apply for up to \$1 million in funding over two years. This funding supports projects that will help people with disabilities and their families access benefits, including the [Disability Tax Credit \(DTC\)](#), the [Canada Disability Benefit \(CDB\)](#), and [other federal, provincial and territorial supports](#).

Organizations have until October 8, 2026, at 3 p.m. Eastern time to review the [DBN CFP funding webpage](#) and apply online through the federal Grants and Contributions Online System.

For more information on [eligibility](#) and [how to apply](#), please visit the [news release](#).

CRTC making it easier to connect Indigenous communities to high-speed Internet and cellphone services

On March 18, 2026, the Government of Canada announced that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is making it easier for Indigenous communities to get connected to high-speed Internet and cellphone services through its [Broadband Fund](#). The Broadband Fund contributes to a broad effort by federal, provincial, and territorial governments to connect underserved rural, remote and [Indigenous communities](#) across Canada.

Many Indigenous communities continue to face a gap in access to high-quality Internet and cellphone services. To help close this gap, the CRTC is gathering views on how to better support [Indigenous applicants](#) to the fund. The CRTC is also reviewing how to simplify reporting requirements to reduce administrative burden..

The CRTC is accepting comments until September 18, 2026.

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

A graphic for routine childhood vaccinations. It features a healthcare worker in a white coat and blue gloves, holding a syringe, and a young girl in a blue dress holding a teddy bear. Both are wearing blue surgical masks. The background is a soft-focus clinical setting. On the left, there is a large red circle containing the text "Help make routine childhood vaccinations easier for parents and caregivers".

Help make
**routine childhood
vaccinations**
easier for parents
and caregivers

[CANADA.CA/VACCINES](https://canada.ca/vaccines)

Canada

Regional

Government of Canada announces funding for Indigenous-led alternatives to incarceration in Manitoba

On August 27, 2026, the Government of Canada announced \$5 million in federal funding to the [Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak \(MKO\)](#) to support Indigenous-led alternatives to incarceration for First Nations individuals. The project, MKO Gladue Pathways to Healing Initiative, will help courts consider culturally informed sentencing options that address the root causes of justice system involvement while promoting healing, accountability and safer communities.

The project will reach up to 26 MKO member communities in Manitoba and support up to 500 individuals annually. This project is funded by Public Safety Canada's [Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative](#), an initiative that provides funding for projects that support alternatives to incarceration and the reintegration of Indigenous offenders.

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

\$97,000 investment to expand Northern Healthy Food Initiative

The Province of Manitoba is investing more than \$97,000 through the [From the Ground Up – Safe, Healthy Communities for ALL program](#) in the Northern Association of Community Councils (NACC) to expand the [Northern Healthy Foods Initiative \(NHFI\)](#). The NACC will expand the program by furthering community consultations and programming with seven communities in northern Manitoba. The Northern Food Sovereignty Consultation involves directly engaging with the seven interested communities, as well as identifying community food champions and council allies.

The From the Ground Up – Safe Healthy Communities for ALL program provides up to \$100,000 to help non-profits, municipalities and northern affairs councils fund community revitalization, youth programs and capital space improvements.

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

Manitoba government agrees to open community court in Opaskwayak Cree Nation as part of justice system reconciliation

On August 13, 2026, the Manitoba government signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) to establish a community court in OCN that would integrate Cree legal traditions, restorative justice principles and culturally grounded approaches into the administration of justice. The court will look to incorporate Indigenous principles, such as land-based healing, holistic justice principles, Elder guidance and community involvement, creating a justice environment that promotes culturally appropriate and effective rehabilitation.

This MOU also builds on commitments made in the Manitoba government's [Safer Neighbourhoods, Safer Downtowns: Public Safety Strategy](#), including preventing reoffending, supporting reintegration, advancing Indigenous justice and reconciliation and promoting community-led justice. The OCN community court may serve as a model for future Indigenous-led courts in Manitoba, showing what is possible when nations work together to enhance community safety through reconciliation.

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

Canada, Manitoba and the Arctic Gateway Group welcome new research confirming feasibility of year-round shipping from Churchill

On August 21, 2026, the governments of Canada and Manitoba, alongside the [Arctic Gateway Group](#), welcomed new research confirming the [feasibility of year-round shipping from the Port of Churchill](#) using existing ice-class vessels, while changing sea-ice conditions are expected to make marine access increasingly favourable over the coming decades. The research shows that declining sea ice is extending the navigable season in Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait, with further gains projected throughout this century.

The [Arctic Research Foundation](#) study's preliminary results identified significant opportunities for northern supply chains, resource exports, community resupply, Indigenous economic participation and Canadian Arctic sovereignty. The [University of Manitoba study](#) found that the shipping season serving the Port of Churchill has expanded significantly over the past several decades and is projected to continue lengthening throughout this century.

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